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# EASTERN

**F.O.  
371**

1947

PALESTINE

File No. 48

pp. 6983 - 7166

**CLOSED  
UNTIL**

**1978**

61820

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FO 371 / 61820

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*E6983/48/31*

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Reference:-

**FO**

**371**

**/ 61820**

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<p>1947</p> <p>331 31</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E6988 / G 2</p> <p>- 1 AUG 1947</p>
<p>E6988/48/G</p> <p>Mr Crossley</p> <p>Paris</p> <p>to Mr Cable</p> <p>Satd 26 July</p> <p>Received 1 Aug.</p>	<p>President <u>Worfield</u></p>	
<p>Last Paper.</p> <p>E6983</p>	<p>(Minutes.)</p> <p>18 Aug 2</p>	
<p>References.</p> <p>E6760/48/G</p>		
<p>(Print.)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of.)</p>		
<p>(Action completed.)</p> <p>25 13</p>	<p>(Index.)</p> <p>W.H.</p>	
<p>Next Paper.</p>		

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Reference: FO 371 / 61820					



1 AUG 1947

E 48 *Enter*

E 6988

British Embassy,

Paris.

26th July, 1947.

*Confidential*  
*My dear Cable,*

The attached is the text of the Note of the 25th July embodying the French decisions reported in our telegram No. 754 concerning the passengers carried by the "President Warfield".

Although the contents of this Note have been communicated to us officially, we are not supposed to possess the actual text as it is an internal French document.

*Yours ever,*

*G.A. Crossley*

G.A. Crossley.

J.E. Cable, Esq.,

Eastern Department,

Foreign Office, S.W.1.

1	2	3	4	5	6

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4

"Le Gouvernement français tient à faire savoir aux immigrants qui se trouvaient à bord de l'"Exodus 1947" qu'il ne les contraindra pas à descendre à terre, mais qu'il donnera asile à tous les volontaires.

Ceux d'entré eux qui décideront de débarquer sur le sol français, y jouiront de toutes les libertés que la France, terre traditionnelle d'accueil des réfugiés, et dont les citoyens ont toujours combattu pour la liberté de la personne humaine accorde à ceux qui cherchent asile sur son territoire.

En même temps, il sera pourvu, dans la plus large mesure, à leurs besoins matériels.

En conséquence, les volontaires désirant débarquer sont invités à se présenter aux fonctionnaires français chargés de surveiller le débarquement".

1 2 3 4 5 6  
 1 2  
 Reference: -  
**FO** 371 / 61820

25 Juillet, 1947.

Convention des Conventions  
Administratives et Sociales.

N O T E

A.S. Passagers de  
1 "Exodus 1947".-

A - A la suite de la Conférence interministérielle tenue le 24 juillet 1947 chez M. SEGALAT, en présence de MM. BOURSICOT, Pierre TISSIER, Jean RAMADIER et BOUSQUET, les dispositions suivantes qui ont pour objet de mettre en application la décision du Conseil des Ministres, ont été prises:

1<sup>o</sup> - Les mesures nécessaires seront prises d'accord avec l'Ambassade de Grande-Bretagne pour que les bâtiments britanniques pénètrent à Port-de-Bouc le Mardi 29 juillet au petit jour de manière à éviter d'attirer l'attention publique. Chaque bâtiment entrera séparément, le bâtiment suivant ne pénétrant dans le port qu'après le débarquement volontaire des passagers du premier bâtiment. En cas de difficultés, si par exemple, des passagers de ce premier bâtiment refusaient de débarquer, la commission officielle dont les tâches sont indiquées au paragraphe 3 ci-après, aurait à prendre une décision sur place.

2<sup>o</sup> - Chaque bâtiment de commerce britannique mouillera le long d'une bouée et à une certaine distance du quai.

3° - Une commission officielle présidée par le Préfet des Bouches-du-Rhône et comprenant un représentant des Affaires Etrangères, un représentant de l'Intérieur, un représentant de la Marine Marchande, un représentant de la Santé Publique, un représentant du C.I.C.R., un représentant du C.I.R. un représentant de l'Entr'aide Française, et M. André BLUMEL représentant l'ensemble des organisations israelites, sera constituée la veille de l'arrivée des bâtiments.

M. TARDEI, représentant des Affaires Etrangères, recevra mission d'entrer personnellement en rapports avec le Consul Général de Grande-Bretagne à Marseille, lequel fera partie de la Commission, mais à titre d'observateur et uniquement pour faciliter les rapports de la dite commission avec les commandants des bâtiments.

B. - Dès l'arrivée du premier bâtiment et après son acostage dans les conditions du paragraphe 2 -, la commission se transportera à bord. Elle fera donner connaissance du communiqué ci-joint en français, en hébreu, en yiddisch. Ce communiqué qui reprendra certaines des dispositions de la décision du Conseil des Ministres, met l'accent sur l'accueil que la France, terre traditionnelle d'asile des Réfugiés est disposée à leur offrir.

C - Après lecture de ce communiqué, tous les volontaires pour le débarquement seront mis en route vers la terre.

D - Ces volontaires recevront à terre l'assistance sanitaire et alimentaire nécessaire. Ils seront hébergés pendant 24 heures à Port-de-Bouc, l'Entr'Aide Française s'engageant à faire les avances afférentes pour le paiement des frais d'hébergement. Le financement des frais ultérieurs fera l'objet d'une décision du Président Ramadier. Il est possible que la Commission préparatoire de l'O.I.R. décide d'assumer tous les frais de l'accueil. Nos Délégués à cette Commission, actuellement à Lausanne, agissent dans ce sens.

E.- II/

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E. - Il appartiendra à la Commission, d'accord avec M. André BLUMEL, de décider, dès que faire se pourra, des lieux de destination des passagers de l'"Exodus" volontaires pour un séjour en France. Des trains seront tenus prêts.

F. - Le Président Ramadier désirerait qu'à la suite d'une entente avec l'Ambassade de Grande-Bretagne à Paris, les navires anglais d'escorte fussent invités par l'Ambassade de Grande-Bretagne à cesser de convoyer les bâtiments de commerce après la limite des eaux territoriales françaises. Les trois bâtiments britanniques contenant les passagers de l'"Exodus 1947" feraient alors route, seuls, vers Port-de-Bouc où la procédure indiquée ci-dessus s'appliquerait.

La première réunion de la Commission aura lieu à l'Hôtel de la Préfecture de Marseille, le Dimanche 27 juillet.

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146

E

E 6582

1 AUG 1947

1947

PALESTINE

Registry  
Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received  
in Registry

E 6592/48/31

M. Kay.

Marseille.

113.

1 Aug.

Illegal Immigration.

Ref Marseille tel 112 (E 6578/48/9)

Entraide Française will supply  
food to immigrants until  
further notice.

Last Paper.

E 6588

(Minutes.)

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) I.I.P.  
on E 6793/84/31  
✓ 2 Aug.

The Naval Commander reports  
that he does not have much  
faith in Entraide Française  
and is glad he has 30,000  
emergency rations coming up  
in the "Vernon Bay".

Ans. Sent  
Aug 2

H.B. 2/8

(Action  
completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

E 6993

32003 F.O.P.

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FO 371 / 61820

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8  
E 6992  
1 AUG 1947

En Clair. CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Kay, D: 11.03 a.m. 1st August, 1947  
No.115  
1st August, 1947. R: 12.29 p.m. 1st August, 1947.

Repeated to Paris No.86.

A A A A

MOST IMMEDIATE.

My telegram No.112 Jewish illegal immigration.

Entraide Francaise have informed us that they will continue to supply food to immigrants until further notice.

Foreign Office please repeat Commander in Chief Mediterranean.

[Copies sent to War Registry Admiralty for repetition].



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(4)



1947

E

E 6993

1 AUG 1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E6993/48/31.  
TELEGRAM FROM  
No. Mr. Juff Cooper.  
Dated Paris.  
Received 778.  
in Registry } 1 Aug.

Return of Illegal Immigrants to France.

Reports article by H. Blum in french press on immigrant ships at Port du Bone. Suggests solution to problem.

Last Paper.

E6992

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

The Cabinet have not reached any decision about alternative destinations. Besides the naming of a definite destination, while possibly an incentive to the Jews to land, might well be an encouragement to the French Govt. to go on trying to get rid of them. We are not therefore in a position to act on this suggestion yet.

As a matter of fact the announcement of a definite destination, ~~and~~ however unpleasant, adds

(Action completed.)  
JEM/19/8  
(Index.)  
2/24/48

Next Paper.

E 6999

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Reference: FO 371/61820





11

According to situation reports from Marseilles, 77 Jewish illegal immigrants have now landed voluntarily in France. His Majesty's Consul General and the naval and military commanders at Port de Bouc have been instructed that the transports "should not be moved any material distance from their present position" in order that the cumulative effect of *waiting* upon the illegal immigrants should not be diminished. The Secretary of State has directed that this position should be maintained over the week-end. *NO* Meanwhile little progress has I understand been made in finding ~~the~~ an alternative destination or destinations for these people in the event of failure to land them in France. Nevertheless it may become necessary next week, in order to achieve our objective ~~of~~ *of* persuading the Jews to disembark voluntarily, to make a definite announcement to them of their final destinations if they refuse to land in France. At present they are reported to be casting doubt upon our expressed intention not to take them back to Cyprus or Palestine.

I therefore suggest that it is important to secure a Cabinet decision early next week (if possible at Tuesday's Cabinet) on the final destination for the Jews which can then, if necessary, be communicated to them. At present it would seem that the Colonial Office and the competent German Departments have only reached the stage of consulting the local authorities in West Africa and the British Zone. What we require is a firm decision.

This decision would be a precaution and without prejudice to the maintenance of our present policy of holding fast.

with night

2.8

Mr. Simon

S.S. 178.  
2/8

J.Y.S. PB.  
2/8  
Let Eileen Jones to see me G/M

S/S. You might like to talk  
to the crew four after Cabinet he has  
been warned. Pt 57 Eastern

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The Secretary of State understands that the French have made a suggestion that perhaps a French Minister or official would be prepared to go to Port de Bouc to urge the illegal immigrants to disembark in France if we inform the French Government that the only alternative place of landing is the British Zone of Germany. The Secretary of State would like to know the details of this suggestion.

As regards the question of a firm decision being taken about the ultimate destination of the Jews if they do not disembark in France, the Secretary of State tells me that he is in constant touch with Mr. Creech Jones. He does not feel, however, that any decision is required for a few days. The ships should continue to remain in position for another week or so.

6th August, 1947.

Please see E7122/48/31

W. S. Belton  
Aug 7

19/8

Mr. P. P. Poole Zion Aug 5.

JB Aug 20

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E 13

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on.]

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

E 6993

1 AUG 1947

Mr. Duff Cooper  
No. 778

D. 2.20 p.m. 1st August, 1947.

1st August, 1947.

R. 3.35 p.m. 1st August, 1947.

Repeated to : Marseilles  
Jerusalem  
Commander-in-Chief,  
Mediterranean

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

SECRET

LIGHT



President Warfield.

Leon Blum today devotes a leading article to the subject of the immigrant ships at Port de Bouc defending the French Government and condemning the British.

2. I venture to suggest that so soon as destination of Jews has been determined they should be made to understand that they still have the choice open to them of immediate freedom in France or indefinite captivity at future destination with no prospect of reaching Palestine, and that they should be given 24 hours in which to take a decision.

3. To return them to Germany, whence doubtless they would start again, would not be a good solution from the point of view of French opinion. Blum today describes these people as the last survivors of Hitler's extermination.

Foreign Office please pass to Jerusalem as my telegram No. 25 and to Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section, Colonial Office, for repetition to Jerusalem, and to War Registry, Admiralty, for repetition to Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.]

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Mr. John  
4 / פוערי ציון

2, BLOOMSBURY PLACE, LONDON, W.C.1

Telephone: MUSEum 4702/3

RECEIVED IN

My Lord,

5th. August.

Leon Blum is not a partisan. He is a great friend of this country. His voice should not remain unheeded. We appeal to you to do all you can to induce the Government to stop this cruel treatment of thousands of people whose only crime is that they tried to flee from the misery of D.P. camps and to join their people in their National Home. If the Government cannot decide on an act of grace in admitting them directly to Palestine, they should at least treat them in the same way as they treated uncertificated immigrants during the past year, by bringing them temporarily to Cyprus.

Yours sincerely,

Nathan Jackson.

Nathan Jackson.

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Reference:-

**FO** 371 / 61820



of clandestine immigrants intercepted in Palestinian waters. Later they decided to turn such immigrants back to their port of embarkation, and this is how the "Exodus" came to a French port. The passengers have been told that if they landed voluntarily they would find on French soil a hospitable and friendly refuge. All of them said no. The exceptions were very few. The sick, of whom there are many on board, to whom the Red Cross offered assistance and hospital treatment, gave the same answer. All declared with one voice: "We are grateful to France, but it is in Palestine that we want to live. We shall all die rather than leave the planks of the ship which was to have taken us there."

The next logical step in the British operation would have been to compel disembarkation on French soil by the use of naked force. But this could not be done without the consent and the cooperation of the French Government. The French Government, faithful interpreter of public opinion - as proved by the unanimous comment of the Press -, faithful interpreter of world conscience, withheld its consent and cooperation. Our British friends must admit it: it could not do otherwise, and it did well. Let them be grateful to our Government for having spared them so terrible an extremity.

A few months ago, in this place, I freely said what I thought about Palestine terrorism. To a large extent, the British are themselves responsible - as they were for terrorism practised by the suffragettes and the Fenians - because, inevitably, one breeds terror in reducing to hopelessness the fanatic fighters for a just cause. Nevertheless, I roundly condemned it, and I condemn it still. In the internal conflict between terrorist organisations such as the "Irgun" and the "Committee for National Liberation" and the legitimate representatives of Palestine and of the Zionist movement, I am entirely on the side of the latter. But the "Exodus" passengers are no terrorists. They are simply martyrs. They would know how to die, as heroes, weapon in hand, like their fathers and brothers, their mothers and sisters, in the Warsaw ghetto. But to-day, like Christian martyrs in the arena, the only weapons they hold are their faith, their resolve not to flinch before any sacrifice, to the end. And to yield before such an act of faith, before this will to sacrifice, is not to lose face, but to gain greatness.

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EASTERN

E. Luter 19

Parliamentary Question

Las.

\* 75. Dr. Segal,—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, what tonnage of British merchant shipping has now been placed at the disposal of the Palestine Government for the interception of unauthorised Jewish refugee immigration. \*

Preston.

ANSWERED 30 JUL 1947  
REPLY ATTACHED.

30 JUL 1947

F.O. ARE NOT ASKED TO ADVISE.

8999  
2 AUG 1947

436/8.

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2/8

### Illegal Immigrants

40. **Dr. Segal** asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what tonnage of British merchant shipping has now been placed at the disposal of the Palestine Government for the interception of unauthorised Jewish refugee immigration.

**Mr. Creech Jones:** Seven ships, with a total gross registered tonnage of 26,000, have been made available for the transfer of illegal immigrants from Palestine and for transport from the Cyprus camps to Palestine. Four of these, with a total tonnage of about 5,300, are of corvette type, and could not be employed for normal commercial purposes.

**Dr. Segal:** In view of the present heavy demands on shipping space for the conveyance of food supplies to this country, and for the needs of our Dominions, could not these vessels be put to better use than to force the remnants of the gas chambers and concentration camps back into exile?

**Mr. Creech Jones:** These are corvettes. They are unsuitable for commercial use, and in any case Britain must carry out her international obligations.

30 JUL 1947

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# PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION.

## Illegal Immigrants

40. **Dr. Segal** asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what tonnage of British merchant shipping has now been placed at the disposal of the Palestine Government for the interception of unauthorised Jewish refugee immigration.

**Mr. Creech Jones:** Seven ships, with a total gross registered tonnage of 26,000, have been made available for the transfer of illegal immigrants from Palestine and for transport from the Cyprus camps to Palestine. Four of these, with a total tonnage of about 5,300, are of corvette type, and could not be employed for normal commercial purposes.

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**Mr. Creech Jones:** These are corvettes. They are unsuitable for commercial use, and in any case Britain must carry out her international obligations.

21  
21 JUL 1947

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<p>332 31</p> <p>347</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<div> <p>EY00Y /G</p> <p>2 AUG 1947</p> </div> <p>22</p>
<p>EY00Y /48/G</p> <p>Mr Naim</p> <p>Bordeaux</p> <p>49</p> <p>Dated 1 Aug</p> <p>Received 2 Aug.</p>	<p>Paducah and Northlands</p>	
<p>Last Paper.</p> <p>E6988</p> <p>References.</p>	<p>(Minutes.)</p> <p>Now see Bordeaux telegram in L</p> <p>for latest information of "PADUCAH"</p> <p>I have asked Paris to find out</p> <p>about the "Northlands" and to urge</p> <p>the French to hold her up.</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> 5/8</p>	
<p>(Print.)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of.)</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i></p>		
<p>(Action completed)</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> 5/8</p>	<p>(Index.)</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i></p>	
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*Green*  
*Y00Y*

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1. 23

FROM BORDEAUX TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Nairn

No. 49

D. 1.40 p.m. 1st August, 1947.

1st August, 1947.

R. 6.59 p.m. 1st August, 1947.

F F F F

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

Jewish illegal immigration.

Work on Pa Ducan is terminated but it could hardly be ready to sail before August 3rd.

2. Work on Northlands will not be terminated before August 5th.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat]

2<sup>nd</sup> AUG 1947

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EY008 /G

Palatine  
EASTERN

24

332 31  
EY008 /48/C

Illegal immigration: Sweden

M. G. G. G.  
Stockholm  
5 Y2

Refs to F.O. 650 (E6654/48/C)

Dated 31 July  
Received 2 Aug.

Last Paper.

EY00Y

References.

(Minutes.)

The Working Party regard the "SAN BASILIO"  
as strongly suspect and are anxious  
that she should not be allowed  
to sail.

Telegram to Stockholm  
accordingly.

6/8

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) 11P 6 Aug  
7) Stockholm 664  
✓ 7 Aug  
8) 11P 9 Aug

(Action  
completed.)

(Index.)

27/8

27/8

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E

EY008 25

2 AUG 1947

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1.

FROM STOCKHOLM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Jerram  
No: 572  
31st July, 1947.

D. 6. 50 p.m. 31st July, 1947.  
R. 9. 30 p.m. 31st July, 1947.

11111

SECRET

Your telegram No. 650. E

Foreign Minister tells me our note is still being studied. He is anxious to do everything legally possible to stop this traffic and authorises me to say that the two vessels you mention will not be allowed to sail if legal grounds can be found to prevent them. He promised to send me a copy of legal opinion prepared for him by experts: it was not, he said, "very hopeful" but he thought it would be possible to go beyond strict [grp. undec.] there laid down.

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Registry  
No. E 7008/48/C.

~~Top Secret.~~

**Secret.**

~~Confidential.~~

~~Restricted.~~

Open.


*Draft.*

STOCKHOLM

*Telegram.*

No. 6104

(Date) Aug: 7<sup>th</sup>

Repeat to :- 

~~The Clair.~~

Code.

*Cypher.*

**Distribution :-**  $\left( \frac{1}{2} \right)$

Departmental No. 4

*Copies to :—*

I. I. P.

*F. O.,*

194 .

Despatched

SECRET

your Telegram no. 572  
[of 31<sup>st</sup> July: Jewish illegal  
immigration]

"SAN BASILIO" is particularly  
suspect and we are most  
anxious to prevent sailing  
of this vessel.

2. Swedish law quoted in your despatch no. 190 appears to give full scope for action against this vessel on lines of action taken by Danish authorities in case of "SAN EUSEBIO" (our blunacy letter E. 5956/48/31 of 16<sup>th</sup> July refers). /9 Howe

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3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&amp;S.

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E. 7008/48/G.

SECRET

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO STOCKHOLM

No. 664.

August 7th, 1947.

D. 5.45 p.m. August 7th, 1947.

JJJ

SECRET

Your telegram No. 572 [of 31st July: Jewish illegal immigration].

"San Basilio" is particularly suspect and we are most anxious to prevent sailing of this vessel.

2. Swedish law quoted in your despatch No. 190 appears to give full scope for action against this vessel on lines of action taken by Danish authorities in case of "San Eusebio" (our Chancery letter E.5956/48/51 of 16th July refers). Have Swedish authorities made a thorough inspection of vessel?

3. We understand Panamanian registry has been withdrawn from both "San Basilio" and "San Spyridon". Surely Swedish authorities can forbid these ships to sail until they acquire some nationality.

4. Please impress upon Swedish Government the importance we attach to detention of "San Basilio", in particular, and also of "San Spyridon".

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7008/48/9

BULLETIN N .184.

10/8/1947.

29

ARRESTS ARE NEW MANIFESTATIONS OF BRITAIN'S LAWLESS REGIME - SAY U.S. ZIONISTS.

New York, Aug. 8th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The American office of the Jewish Agency has sent a message to the Vaad Leumi asking the National Council to convey to the Mayors of Tel Aviv, Nathanya, Ramat Gan, and others detained, "our sense of outrage and sympathy. This arbitrary and unwarranted action on the part of the British authorities in Palestine seems calculated to intensify bitterness and resentment, and constitutes a new manifestation of Britain's lawless regime in Palestine," the message states.

Prior to her departure for Britain on board the "Queen Mary" yesterday, Lady Astor declared that Christian help for Jewish displaced persons arouses Arab fears lest Christians desert them for the Jews. This was "driving the Arabs towards the Communists," she stated.

REVISIONIST LEADER URGES WITHDRAWAL OF BRITISH TROOPS FROM PALESTINE AS "LAST ACT UNDER MANDATE."

London, Aug. 8th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Describing the struggle in Palestine as a "struggle for sovereignty between the British occupation forces and the forces of the Jewish people in that land," Mr. Ivan M. Greenberg, Chairman of the United Zionist Revisionists of Great Britain, at a press conference here to-day, called upon the Government "to announce steps for the immediate withdrawal of British occupying forces from Eastern and Western Palestine."

He said that this would be Britain's "last act under their Mandatory obligation." The government of the land should be transferred to a representative body of the Jewish people in Palestine.

Commenting on the recent arrests in Palestine, Mr. Greenberg said that it was not surprising that under a police regime based on illegality and brute force, the Revisionist Party, whose members felt obliged to speak the political truth as they see it, were singled out "for totalitarian attention by the imprisonment of many of its most distinguished adherents." The explanation that that was done because of the sympathies which the Revisionists have for the Irgun was absurd, Mr. Greenberg said. He emphasised that the political aim of the Revisionists and the Irgun was identical although there is no organisational link between the two bodies.

At the same time, Mr. Greenberg denied that the present anti-Jewish excesses in England were isolated and spontaneous reactions to the execution of the two sergeants in Palestine. "There are too many indications of a deliberate campaign, conducted from quarters of great influence, to render the Jews of this country a community of hostages in order to exert pressure upon their co-religionists elsewhere," he said. In this connection, he called upon Mr. Bevin to withdraw publicly his "mischievous" remarks about a "war between Jews and Gentiles."

SWEDEN ASKED TO PREVENT SAILING OF TRANSPORT TO PALESTINE.

Stockholm, Aug. 8th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

Apprehensive of the departure from Sweden of a transport allegedly designed to carry unauthorised Jewish immigrants to Palestine, the British Government has drawn the attention of the Swedish authorities to the 611-ton ship, "San Basilio," which is not registered under any flag, and believed to be leaving Gothenburg shortly, it is reported in the Conservative newspaper, "Svenska Dagbladet." If the ship is seaworthy, however, the local authorities cannot prevent her sailing.

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Reference:

FO

371

61820

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10/8/1947.

CLASH OVER PALESTINE EXPECTED AT AGUDIST WORLD CONFERENCE.

London, Aug.8th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Agudists of Poland will be represented for the first time since the war at the international conference of the Agudath Israel World Organisation meeting in Marienbad in the week commencing August 19th; it was announced by the Agudist Executive here to-day.

It is not yet known whether the Poale Agudath Israel of Tel Aviv will be represented, but the Jerusalem group (Pagi) will send five delegates. In addition to delegations from every European country, there will also be a strong Palestine delegation led by Rabbi I.M. Lewin. The American delegation will be headed by Rabbi Elia Bloch, of Cleveland, President of the American Agudah. Rabbi J.J. Horowitz, Chairman of the London Executive, will lead a 9-man delegation from Great Britain.

A strong clash is expected at the conference on the subject of Agudist Palestine policy. The Tel Aviv Agudist worker organisation favour the establishment of a Jewish State but this demand is rejected by the Agudist leadership in Jerusalem, New York and London who are in favour of cancellation of the White Paper and full immigration, feeling that under the present political conditions, it is advisable to concentrate on a short-term policy.

Amongst messages of greetings received on the occasion of the conference is one from the Rabbinate of the Moscow Jewish Community.

The Czechoslovak Government will be represented at the opening session and a message from Mr. Jacob Rosenheim, President of the World Organisation, will be broadcast from New York. The political report will be submitted by Mr. H.A. Goodman.

Issuance of a special postage stamp in honour of the conference has been authorised by the Czechoslovak postal authorities.

HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS HEIRLESS PROPERTY TO JEWISH REHABILITATION FUND.

Budapest, Aug.8th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Office of Abandoned Property has been liquidated by a decree of the Hungarian Government and all heirless and abandoned Jewish property will be transferred to the Jewish Rehabilitation Fund.

At the same time, the Government declared that all property transactions involving Jews after December, 1944, are null and void. This move is expected to bring considerable new sums into the Rehabilitation Fund as Jewish property confiscated or sold under duress is recovered.

ALLEGED ASSAULT ON AMERICAN TROOPS BY DISPLACED JEWS.

Munich, Aug.8th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

A military cordon has been thrown around the Bleidern D.P. camp at Ansbach while officials are investigating the alleged abduction of two American soldiers by a group of displaced Jews last week. The enquiry was ordered by General Lucius D. Clay, Commander of the American zone in Germany.

According to official and Jewish sources, three soldiers assaulted a displaced Jew outside the camp. He summoned help and a crowd of incensed Jews, mistaking two passing soldiers for the original assailants, seized them and brought them into the camp. Neither soldier was seriously injured and both were released within an hour of their abduction.

Army authorities were pressing their search for 50 D.P.'s in the camp area who are suspected of direct participation in the incident. The Jews have been restricted to the camp area and no arrests have been made.

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Reference:-

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61820

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152

1947

E

E 7015

PALESTINE

4 AUG 1947

31

Registry  
Number

E7015/48/31.

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Mr Kay  
Marseilles

Dated

114.

Received  
in Registry

4 Aug.

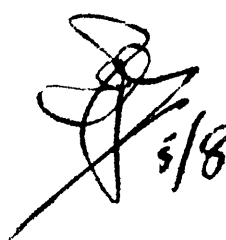
Illegal Immigration.  
 About 100 Jews will have  
 disembarked by evening of 1 Aug.  
 It is believed ship can be cleared  
 by force.

Last Paper.

E 7008

(Minutes.)

Now see E 7017

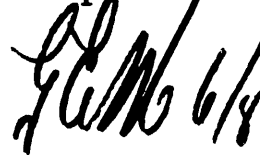


References.

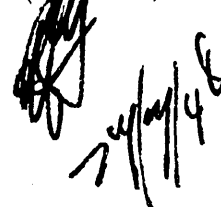
(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

1-1-P.  
 ✓ 4 Aug.

(Action  
completed)


(Index.)



Next Paper.

E 7016

32008 F.O.P.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371/61820**

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E 7015  
4. AUG 1947

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Kay D. 1.15 a.m. 1st August, 1947  
No. 114 R. 3.10 p.m. 2nd August, 1947  
1st August, 1947.  
Repeated to Paris.

0 0 0 0

IMPORTANT  
SECRET

Illegal Jewish immigration.

By tonight approximately 100 Jews will have disembarked. So far no barges have been brought alongside but three small vessels are standing by in port for use of volunteers. Officer Commanding Troops states that Government announcement had little effect and was not believed and considers we shall get a few more volunteers by threats or persuasion. He is however confident that if force is used the ship can be cleared. He also states that prolonged delay is having a bad effect on temper of both troops and Jews and some trouble is probable. Officer Commanding yesterday refused permission for official interpreter to go on board as he was believed to be inciting Jews not to disembark.

Paris repeat to Military Attaché.

Foreign Office repeat Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

[Repeated to War Registry Admiralty for retransmission].

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371 / 61820

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153

E

E 7016

4 AUG 1947

33

Registry  
Number

E 7016 / 48/31.

TELEGRAM FROM

M. Kay  
Marseilles

No.

Dated

Received

in Registry

116.  
2 Aug.  
4Illegal Immigration

Transports cannot be moved far  
without bunkers. Arrangements have  
been made for bunkering at  
Marseilles. Does not think ships  
should enter Marseilles port with  
immigrants on board.

Last Paper.

E 7015

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) I.P.P. on E 7015/48/31  
4 Aug.

Tel Marseilles 112

Aug 5.

Rptd Paris 1741(S)

8) I.P.P. on  
E 7031/48/31  
Aug 7

Tel Marseilles 110

Rptd Paris 1772

3 Aug.

(Action  
completed.)

(Index)

Next Paper.

E 7017

(Minutes.)

*File*  
(CABLE)  
5/8

I now attach a draft tel. of  
instruction to the C.P. Marseilles  
agreed at today's meeting of  
the Illegal Immigration Comtee.  
JD Aug 5

I.P.P. Admiralty tel 072130 5/8.

*File*  
12/8

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371/61820

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33A

8) G. G. P.

on E 7031/48/31

✓ 7 Aug.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1				2	

Reference:-

FO 371/61820

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Marseilles telegram no. 116  
 does not mention the important fact  
 (which I have from the Admiralty) that  
 one of the three transports has only 35  
 tons of coal left. While at anchor  
 she is probably burning 3 or 4 tons  
 daily, and she must keep a certain  
 reserve to get into Marseilles. L. in C.  
 Med. has informed the Admiralty  
 that no naval bunkers are available.  
 D3 has arranged for sufficient bunkers  
 in Marseilles to take the transports  
 "as far as Malta" (why Malta?).  
 Nevertheless the Admiralty say that  
 bunkering is not their concern but the

/Ministry

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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2
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Reference:

FO

371

/ 61820

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35

of Transports.

This question will have to be discussed when people are back in Whitehall. Meanwhile I have sent an interim telegram, suggesting that the ship in short supply (the Runnymede Park) might be sent to Marseilles alone. (Mr. Runnie and Mr. Fleasters concur. Admiralty duty commander sees no objection).

H.B. Selby 3/8

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61820

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Registry  
No. 4

~~Top Secret~~  
Secret.  
~~Confidential~~  
~~Restricted~~  
~~Open~~

Draft. tel. 15

Marseilles

110  
Aug 3rd

Rept 15

Paris

1742

Syphon

Draft no. 2

Copy 1.1.P.

OUT FILED

Despatched

Immediate

Secret

Your telegram no. 116

Instructions will be sent as  
soon as possible.

2. Meanwhile I understand  
that the RUNNYMEDE PARK has only  
35 tons of coal. If it becomes  
essential for her to obtain  
herbers before instructions arrive,  
you will no doubt consider the  
possibility of sending her to  
Marseilles while leaving the other  
two transports at Port de Boue.  
This should reduce the risk  
mentioned in your paragraph 2.

H.B. 3/8

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO

371

61820

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

E

Secret  
Cypher/OTP

38  
DEPARTMENTAL No. 2.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO MARSEILLES

No. 110

3rd August, 1947. D. 2.40 p.m. 3rd August, 1947.

Repeated to Paris No. 1772

F F F F

IMMEDIATE  
SECRET

Your telegram No. 116.

Instructions will be sent as soon as possible.

2. Meanwhile I understand that the Runnymede Park has only 35 tons of coal. If it becomes essential for her to obtain bunkers before instructions arrive, you will no doubt consider the possibility of sending her to Marseilles while leaving the other two transports at Port de Beue. This should reduce the risk mentioned in your paragraph 2.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

Reference: -

FO 371 / 61820

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Registry

No. E7016/48/31

J. G. S. B.

Draft.  
Marseilles.

Telegram.

No. 112

Dated. Aug 5<sup>th</sup>

Repeat to:

Paris ~~1184~~  
1541 Saw

Cypher

Departmental No. 2

Cabinet Distn.

Copy I. I. P.

Adhy.  
Cabinet Office }  
Cleared with }  
Private Sec }

OUT FILE

6 August, 1947.

Despatched 6.30 a M.

~~IMMEDIATE~~  
~~SECRET~~

My telegram No. 110 [of August  
3rd: Jewish illegal immigration].

~~We see no objection to movement of~~  
~~You are authorised to send any~~  
~~one of the three transports to~~  
~~Marseilles for bunkers if necessary.~~  
~~Instructions to this effect are~~  
~~being sent by the Admiralty to the~~  
~~Captain D.3.~~

Following is text of instructions  
being sent by Adhy. to C-in-C Med.  
repeated to D.3: -

" Foreign Office are  
informing C-G. <sup>Marseilles</sup> that Runnymede  
Park and other ships may  
re-bunker at Marseilles as  
necessary.

2. Reasons mentioned by D.3  
as obviously contrary to this  
Course

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO

371 / 61820

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

40

Course

not fully appreciated here.

3. F.O. see possible advantage in letting it be known that ships are being bunkered for distant destination not repeat not Palestine or Cyprus.

4. If in your view disadvantages outweigh advantages request immediate report specifying nature of objections."

2. I have concurred in these instructions and ~~you~~ see no objection to bunkering ~~at Marseilles as indicated in first para.~~ at Marseilles as indicated in first para. form of message, by which you should be guided.  
B Aug 5

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61820

41

001 164

CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO MARSEILLES.

D. 6.30 a.m. 6th August 1947.

D. 6.30 a.m. 6th August 1947.

W:W:W:W:W

W:W:W:W:W

IMMEDIATE.

**SECRET.**

My telegram No.110 [of August 3rd: Jewish  
illegal immigration].

Following is text of instructions being sent by Admiralty to Commander in Chief Mediterranean repeated to D.3:-

"Foreign Office are informing Consul-General Marseilles that Runnymede Park and other ships may rebunker at Marseilles as necessary.

2. Reasons mentioned by D.3 as obviously  
contrary to this course not fully appreciated here.

3. Foreign Office see possible advantage in letting it be known that ships are being bunkered for distant destination not (repeat not) Palestine or Cyprus.

4. If in your view disadvantages outweigh advantages request immediate report specifying nature of objections."

(2.) I have concurred in these instructions and see no objection to bunkering at Marseilles as indicated in first paragraph of message, by which you should be guided.

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# SECRET

70/6 48 21

IN

42

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message and the text must first be paraphrased\* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(\*Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:

"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

072130/August.

From D.3

Date: 8.8.47.

Recd: 0001.

SECRET

To: C. in C. Med. Afloat.  
Info: C. in C. Med. Malta, Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE

SITREP Number 15. 7 volunteers landed today.

2. RUNNYMEDE PARK returned to port de Bouc today.  
Thursday. EMPIRE RIVAL completes and returns tomorrow  
Friday a.m. OCEAN VIGOUR proceeds to Marseilles for 200  
tons coal p.m. tomorrow Friday.

072130

Advance copy sent D.C., R.C.  
at 0035/8

1st Lord.  
1st S.L.(3)  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.  
Naval Secretary  
Secretary  
U.S.S.  
O.D.(8)  
D.C.(2)  
M.(8)  
D.N.I.(5)  
D. of P.(2)  
D. of P.(Q)  
C.N.I.(2)  
R.C.

*Foreign Office (2/8/47)*

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO

371

61820

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1947

# E

E 7017

4 AUG 1947

PALESTINE

*Registry  
Number*

**TELEGRAM FROM**

*No.*

*Dated*

*Received  
in Registry*

ry } E 70.7/48/31

The Kay  
Hawthilles

117.  
2 Aug.

4

## Illegal Immigration.

Ref Transmills Vol. 4 (E 70.5/48/3.)

Does not think there will be further disembarcations after the afternoon.

## Last Paper.

E70.6

## References.

(Minutes.)

CJ.E-CABLE

5/8

JB Aug 5

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) I.I.P (on E2015/48/31)

✓ 4 Aug.

(Action completed.)

(Index

## Next Paper.

E 7018

**32008 F.O.P.**

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FO 371 61820

44

4 AUG 1947

**Cypher/OTP**

## CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Kay

No. 117

D. 6.16 p.m. 2nd August, 1947.

2nd August, 1947.

R. 2.5 a.m. 3rd August, 1947.

Repeated to Paris

**F F F F**

**IMMEDIATE**

**SECRET**

My telegram No. 114. Illegal Jewish immigration.

Up to 2 p.m. today no (repeat no) further disembarkations. O.C. Troops considers apart from two Jews who intend to land this afternoon no other volunteers will be forthcoming. Otherwise there is nothing further to report.

Paris repeat to Military Attaché.

Foreign Office please repeat to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

[Copies sent to War Registry Admiralty for retransmission]

1 2 3 4 5 6  
 1 2  
 Reference:-  
**FO**  
 371 / 61820

155

E

E 7018

PALESTINE

4 AUG 1947

45

Registry  
Number

E7018/48/31.

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Mr. Kay  
Marseilles

Dated

Received

in Registry

120.  
3 Aug.  
u

Last Paper.

E7017

References.

E7031/48/21.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

c) 1.1.P on E7015/48/31  
✓ 4 Aug.f) Lt. Col. Charteris, 1404  
(Spec. Mess. 6.15)  
✓ 5 Aug.

(Marseilles 120

3 Aug.

Rpd. to B.M.E.O. 633  
Aug. 5.)

1.T.O

(Action  
completed)

J.C.B. 7/8.

(Index)

24/1/48.

Next Paper.

E7019

Illegal Immigration.

Ref F.O. 10108/E

Wishes to know if there is any  
objection to Red Cross leaving  
a doctor on each ship in harbour,  
for subsequent voyages.

(Minutes.)

I see no objection at all to  
leaving doctors on board.

The second paragraph is obscure, and  
but presumably means that C.C. Troops  
is asking C. in C. M.E.L.F. for more army  
doctors. It might be as well to  
clear this up and make sure that  
Mr. Kay is not asking us to  
provide doctors.

I submit draft telegram accordingly.

Marseilles no. 120 and our no. 108  
to Marseilles referred to C. in C.  
M.E.L.F.

Seen by Mr. Beith & sent

*[Signature]*  
C.C. CABLES  
5/8

*[Signature]*  
5/8

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Reference:

FO 371/61820

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45A

Del. abarvilles

113 Aug. 5.

8/9.9.02int

Aug 15

✓ E 7259 / 84 / 31

Distributed by  
hand to:-

C.O.

H.O.

Admty.

M.I.S.

M/I

✓ Cat. Off.

Aug. 14

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371 / 61820**

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No.1

46  
E

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr Kay.  
No. 120

D. 4. 30 p.m. 3rd August, 1947.

3rd August, 1947.

R. 7. 15 p.m. 3rd August, 1947.

Repeated to Paris

2 2 2 2

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

E 7018

4 AUG 1947

Your telegram No. 108. E

Illegal Jewish Immigration.

O.C. troops reports International Red Cross proposes leaving doctor on each ship in harbour and for any subsequent voyage. Is there any objection to this?

O.C. troops reports further that present doctors are overworked and asks urgently for one additional doctor for each ship and one S.M.O. and one gynaecologist for the [gp undec].

Foreign Office please repeat to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

[Copies sent to War Registry, Admiralty for repetition to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

[Copy sent to M.E. Secretariat].

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO 371 / 61820

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Registry  
No. **E 7018 / 48 / 31**

Top Secret.  
Secret.  
Confidential.  
Restricted.  
Open.

J.E.C.

OUT FILE

*F. O.,*

Despatched 11 M.

IMPORTANT  
RESTRICTED

*Draft.*

MARSEILLES

*Telegram.*

No. 113

No. 110  
(Date) Aug 5<sup>th</sup>

*Repeat to :—*

Paris No.

C. in C. MED

MEC. CA/RB-6323  
CINC. ME/LF  
~~The Chair.~~  
Code. R  
Glyphor.

*Distribution :-*

Departmental (w.o. concern)

*Copies to :-*

I.I.P.

Your telegram no. 120 [of 3<sup>rd</sup>  
August: "President Warfield"]  
There is no objection to

There is no objection to Red Cross doctors remaining on board. With these meet

on route.

2. We presume O.C. Troops  
is asking C. in C. H.E.F. direct  
for more army doctors and  
that you do not wish us  
to take action on second  
paragraph of your telegram  
under reference.

requirements of v.c. troops mentioned / in

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

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## References:

FO 371 / 61820

*[Handwritten signature]* 5/8

**Reference:**

FO 371 / 61820

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OUT FILE

Green

49

E 7018/48/31

Code R

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO MARSEILLES

No. 113

5th August 1947.

D. 11 a.m. 6th August 1947.

Repeated to Paris No. 1542 Saving  
Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean  
B.M.E.O. Cairo No. 632 (for Commander-in-  
Chief M.E.L.F.).

V V V

IMPORTANT.

RESTRICTED.

Your telegram No. 120 [of 3rd August: "President Warfield"].

There is no objection to Red Cross doctors remaining on board. Will these meet requirements of O.C. troops mentioned in second paragraph of your telegram under reference or will he require further army doctors as well?

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: -

**FO** 371 / 61820

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156

E

50

E 7019

4 AUG 1947

PALESTINE

Registry  
Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received  
in Registry

E7019/48/31

Marseilles

121.  
3 Aug  
4

Illegal Immigration  
 Ref Marseilles tel 117/E7017/48/31)  
 Tension on board transfers has  
 relaxed. Some journalists have  
 been on board. Requests permission  
 for limited number to be allowed  
 on board daily.

Last Paper.

E7018

References.

(Minutes.)

Please see also E7025

*File*  
 (S.E. CABLE)

This is covered by our  
 tel. no. 111 to Marseilles (space  
 attached)

10 Aug 5

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

6) 1.1. P. on E7018/48/31  
 ✓ 4 Aug.

Tel) Marseilles 111  
 Rptd) Paris 1529 Sav.  
 4 Aug.

8) 9.9. P. on  
 E7031/48/31  
 ✓ 7 Aug.

(Action  
completed)

(Index)

Next Paper.

E7025

32003 F.O.P.

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Reference:-

FO 371/61820

CYPHER/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Kay.  
No. 121.

D: 7.50 p.m. 3rd August, 1947.

3rd August, 1947.

R: 11.20 p.m. 3rd August, 1947.

Repeated to: Paris.

@@@ @@@ @@@

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

My telegram No. 117. N/P

E 7019

4 AUG 1947

Illegal Jewish immigration.

Three immigrants disembarked to-day. Tension on board has relaxed due no doubt to an improved food supply. Three International Red Cross doctors are now on board the transports.

Information Officer visited Runnymede Park to-day and found representative of "Agence [grp.undec.? France] Press" being shown round the ship by Officer Commanding Troops. In view of this Information Officer asked for and obtained permission of Officer Commanding Troops to bring on board representatives of Reuter, Daily Herald and News Chronicle. In the circumstances should permission be given for a limited number of journalists to visit transports each day? Pending further instructions Officer Commanding Troops has agreed not to allow any more journalists on board.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61820

Registry  
No. E

~~Top Secret.~~  
~~Secret.~~  
~~Confidential.~~  
~~Restricted.~~  
~~Open.~~

Draft.

H.M. Consul General  
Marseilles

Telegram.

No. 111

(Date) Aug 14

Repeat to:—

Paris SAY.  
1529 Saw.

~~En Clair.~~  
~~Code.~~  
Cypher.

Distribution:—

Dep. 1.

Copies to:—

Illegal Immigration  
Dist.

OUT FILE

F.O.,

Despatched 4/10 1947.  
2 50 PM.

Immediate

Secret

Your telegram No. 121 [of August 3:  
press visits to transports]

I approve your action and  
that of Officer Commanding Troops  
in permitting selected representatives  
of the press to visit transports.

2. Our impression here is that  
eyewitness accounts in the press are  
likely to be helpful. You may  
therefore use your discretion, in  
consultation

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:—

FO 371 / 61820

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63

consultation with the O. C. Troops,

to permit a limited number of responsible journalists to visit transports.

3. greatest care must of course be exercised to ensure that these visits are not used for the purpose of waiting passengers to refuse to land.

Sp. 4/8

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

Reference: **FO 371 / 61820**

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54

E

Secret  
Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO MARSEILLES

No.111

4th August, 1947. D.2.50 p.m. 4th August, 1947.  
Repeated to Paris No.1529 Saving

B B B B

IMMEDIATE

Secret

Your telegram No.121 [of August 3rd: press visits to transports].

I approve your action and that of Officer Commanding Troops in permitting selected representatives of the press to visit transports.

2. Our impression here is that eyewitness accounts in the press are likely to be helpful. You may therefore use your discretion in consultation with the Officer Commanding Troops, to permit a limited number of responsible journalists to visit transports.

3. Greatest care must of course be exercised to ensure that these visits are not used for the purpose of inciting passengers to refuse to land.

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:-

FO

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61820

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**PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE**

Group . . . . .

Class . . . . .

Piece . . . . . 07620 . . . . .

**Following document(s) retained in the**

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E7025/48/31

FO 371 / 61820

55

E 7027 | 48 | <sup>31</sup>6

Suspect shipping: weekly  
report

Dated 4 / August 1967

(Minutes.)

5/8

1. Marseille 118

3 Aug

E 6784 / 48 / C

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)  
 Copied C.O. on the Sec-  
 8) I. I. P.  
 Aug. 9

(Index.)

**Next Paper.**

27437 F.O.P.

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**DEPARTMENTAL NO.** 1

Mr. Kay  
No. 118

D. 10.20 a.m. 3rd August 1947.  
R. 1.55 p.m. 3rd August 1947.

Repeated to Paris Saving.



**SECRET.**

**Jewish illegal immigration.**

**Your telegram No. 104.**

Ships referred to are not (repeat not) at Marseilles and there is no evidence that they ever came here.

no evidence that they  
 PP in Sept  
 year of attached.

RECEIVED IN C.B.

5 AUG 1947

SENT TO DEP.

~~5 AUG 1947~~

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**Reference:-**

○

22

028519

E7027/100 1947

57

CYPHER/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM BRUSSELS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Harrison.  
No. 308.

D: 5.14 p.m. 1st August, 1947.

1st August, 1947.

R: 8.15 p.m. 1st August, 1947.

Repeated to: Jerusalem.

@@@

@@@

@@@

E/Green E 6784/48/c

My telegram No. 297 of July 26th.

Weekly report.

No change in shipping situation.

Please repeat to Jerusalem as my telegram No. 13.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section, Colonial Office  
for repetition to Jerusalem. Copies sent to Middle  
East Secretariat.]

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference: **FO 371 / 61820**

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E6787/48/6

Secret

Cypher/OTP

58  
DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO MARSEILLES.

No. 104

30th July 1947.

D. 11.40 a.m. 31st July 1947.

Repeated to Paris No. 1493 Saving.

V V V

SECRET

Jewish illegal immigration.

Weekly List No. 12 shows 2 unknown ex-American  
corvettes. Can you confirm whether these ships actually  
exist and, if so, give us further details?

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1			2	

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FO 371 / 61820

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Class *371* .....

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*E 7031/48/31*

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1	1	2	2	2	2

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EYOS9 /G

- E AUG 1947

59

Palestine  
EASTERN

1947

335

EYOS9 /48/9

S.S. Kora

Genoa

35

dated 2 Aug  
Received 5 Aug.

Last Paper.

EYOS9

References.

EYOS9/48/9.

(Print.)

How disposed of  
8) H.P. 6 Aug  
10) Genoa 57

6 Aug

Rpt Rome 1689

8) H.P. 11 Aug

10) Genoa 58

9 Aug

Rpt Rome 1689

8) H.P. 12 Aug

(Action  
completed.)

(Index.)

5/9

Next Paper.

(Minutes.)

This telegram was discussed by the Working Party on Illegal Immigration at their meeting to-day.

It was agreed that it would be wise to allow CASPARINATOS to come to this country, since this might assist in delaying the departure of the "KORA" and it might even be possible to obtain further information from him. Before replying to H.O., Consul-General on this point, however, Eastern Dept. would be grateful for the comments of Passport Control Dept.

Telegram sent to Genoa asking for further information on conversion of ship and suspicions of sinners.

P.C.D.

*[Signature]*  
(J.E. CABLE)  
We 6/8

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Reference:-

FO

371

61820

60

We are awaiting the receipt of the  
 apprais of G & his managers from  
 the Visa Sec Rome. Both these  
 men have been the subject of a  
 report to "Security". When the apprais  
 are recd we will explain to the  
 H.O. & Security that the F.O. are  
 in favour of the proposed visit

Back.

7.8.47

Both Mr. Dudley, of the Immigration  
 Branch of the Home Office, and  
 Mr. Schen of H.F.S. have agreed  
 that, in view of the exceptional  
 circumstances, these two men  
 should be granted a visit  
 for V.H. Home Office would,  
 however, like this visa  
 to be valid for 3 months only.

I suggest, therefore, that  
 we telegraph Geneva now,  
 without waiting for the formal  
 application to arrive.

I submit draft Telegram  
 accordingly.

P.C.D. first

*[Signature]*  
 (C.C. CABLE)

7th approved by P.C.D. and sent. 3/8

*[Signature]*  
 4/8

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 Reference: **FO** 371 / 61820

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1. 1847

5 AUG 1947

61

D. 1.0 p.m. 2nd August 1947.  
R. 6.0 p.m. 2nd August 1947.

V V V

Your telegram No. 52.

Inspection of Kera by Lloyds surveyors (who are in constant supervision of modifications and repairs on this vessel) reveals that between deck has not yet been removed although this figures in the work programme and that accommodation for 12 passengers is in construction on the bridge deck. Present work will take one week more to complete, longer if between deck is removed. Chief surveyor confirms that as the ship now is she could undoubtedly be used for transport of illegal immigrants especially as 8 additional latrines are in the course of installation. I shall advise when the work is completed.

2. Your telegram No. 54. Mr. Neill informs me that his instructions to apply second arrest on settlement of first debt still held. Gasparinatos is anxious to proceed to London accompanied by Potamianos to discuss the situation with Wigham Richardson. If you think an interview with the firm or with your department would be useful instructions should be sent me to grant visa for which application has gone forward.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1				2	

### Reference:-

371 / 64820

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149. Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

Registry  
No. E7054/48/6

<del>Top Secret.</del>
Secret.
<del>Confidential.</del>
<del>Restricted.</del>
Open.

T.E.C.

Draft.

GENOA

Telegram.

No. 57

(Date) Aug 6

Repeat to:—

ROME NO 1689

~~Pro Clair.~~

Code.

Cypher.

Distribution:—

Departmental No. 1

Copies to:—

I. I. P.

F. O.,

1947.

Despatched 1-35a M.

SECRET

Your telegram no 35 [of  
2nd August: Jewish illegal  
immigration]

Please report whether  
Lloyds surveyor considers that  
"KORA" will still be fit  
for transport of illegal immigrants  
after removal of between  
deck has been completed.

2. Consideration is being  
given to ~~GASPARINAT~~ owner's  
proposal to visit U.K. and  
a reply will be sent as  
soon as possible. In the

1/9/ ~~message~~

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:—

FO

371 / 61820

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63

2nd time

If he does come to U.K. we should like to ~~examine~~ <sup>examine</sup> question him on reports in your Telegrams nos. 25 and 26. Please state, therefore, whether the information is reliable and whether you see any objection to our using it in this manner.

6/8

**NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.**

FO 371 / 61820

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Lee.

64

**DEPARTMENTAL No.1.**

A diagram showing a 6x2 grid. The top row contains numbers 1 through 6. Below the grid is a horizontal ruler with tick marks. The numbers 1 and 2 are placed below the ruler, indicating the width of the first and second columns respectively.

D: 11.35 a.m. 7th August, 1947

**Reference:**

5

371 / 61820

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2. Consideration is being given to owner's proposal to visit United Kingdom and a reply will be sent as soon as possible. If he does come to United Kingdom we should like to question him on reports in your telegrams Nos. 25 and 26. Please state, therefore, whether you still consider this information reliable and whether you see any objection to our using it in this manner.

3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S. NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry  
No. E 7059/48/6

~~Top Secret.~~  
Secret.  
~~Confidential.~~  
Restricted.  
Open.

Draft.

G.E.N.A.

Telegram.

No. 58.

(Date) Aug 9<sup>th</sup>.

Repeat to:—

Rome (Gaming) 247/15...

P.C.D. first

En Chair.

Code. R

Cypher.

Distribution:—

Departmental No. 1

Copies to:—

I. I. P.

F. O.,

9 8 1947.

Despatched 5 0 P.M.

Confidential

Your telegram no. 35 [of  
2nd August: Jewish illegal  
immigration]

Following from Director of  
Passport Control.

You may grant U.K. visas  
for ~~validity for 2 months only~~  
to GASPARIATOS and  
POTAMIANOS. Marked 'Visit'  
of 2 months authorised by H.O.  
2 months authorised by Home Office

mm  
9/8

*[Signature]*

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:—

FO 371 / 61820

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G6  
Green

**DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.**

No. 58

D. 5.00 p.m. 9th August 1947

Repeated to Rome No. 247 Saving

0 0 0 0 0 0

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Your telegram No. 35 [of 2nd August: Jewish illegal immigration].

Following from Director of Passport Control.

You may grant United Kingdom visas to Gasparinatos and Potamianos marked "Visit of 2 months authorised by Home Office".

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Reference:-

**FO 371 61820**

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Class *371* .....

Piece *61820* .....

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*E 7062 / 48 / 31*

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Reference: **FO** *371 / 61820*

163

E

67

1947

PALESTINE

E 7070

NO 347

Registry  
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received  
in Registry

E7070/48/31

F.O.

Minute

Ser. O. Sargent.

31 July

Proposed visit of Mr. Bidault to London:

Mr. Bidault called to discuss proposed visit to London of Mr. Bidault. He suggested that in view of the way that the disembarkation of the Jews at Port de Haie was proceeding, it would be better to postpone the visit until some date to be determined later.

Last Paper.

7062.

References.

(Minutes.)

*John*  
(J.E. CABLE)  
12/8

10 Aug 12

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

706 Paris, 1761.  
Aug-1.

(Action  
completed.)

(Indo)

*John*  
12/8

*John*  
22/4/48

Next Paper.

7071

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

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Reference:

FO 371/61820

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OUR FILE

68

1st August, 1947.

D.9.28 p.m. 1st August, 1947.

B B B B B

**Confidential**

The French Ambassador called on Sir Orme Sargent on July 31st to discuss M. Bidault's proposed visit to London. He started off by saying that, in view of the way the disembarkation of the Jews at Port de Bouc was proceeding, it would be better to postpone M. Bidault's visit until some date to be determined later. Besides, quite apart from the Jewish business, it would be embarrassing for M. Bidault if, when in London, he was precluded from discussing the question of the German level of industry on the grounds that this was being handled at the technical level and must be kept at that level. Sir Orme Sargent agreed that, for all these reasons, it would be best to reconsider M. Bidault's visit later on.

2. Sir Orme Sargent took the opportunity to rub into M. Massigli how disappointed we were at the unhelpful attitude of the French local authorities at Port de Bouc, which was, moreover in flat contradiction to the assurances given by M. Bidault to the Secretary of State to the effect that the French Government would do what they could to facilitate and encourage the landing of these Jews.

3. M. Massigli was very apologetic, especially when shown your telegram No. 769 reporting the disgusting behaviour of the Paris Press. He assured Sir Orme Sargent that he had already impressed upon his Government how dangerous it was to allow this anti-British campaign to be fomented in this irresponsible manner and he would now telegraph again to the same effect and hoped that we would soon see a cessation of these attacks. For instance, "Combat" had already published a second article in which it had unsaid a great deal of the unpleasant things it had said the day before.

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Reference:-

**FO** 371 / 61820

Copy entered 7126/25/17  
 E 7070  
 7126  
 AUG 1947  
 AUG 1947  
 69

THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR came to see me to-day as arranged to discuss M. Bidault's proposed visit to London.

M. Massigli started off by saying that in view of the way that the disembarkation of the Jews at Port de Bouc was proceeding, it would be better to postpone M. Bidault's visit until some date to be determined later. Besides, quite apart from the Jewish business, it would be embarrassing for M. Bidault if when in London he were precluded from discussing the question of the German level of industry on the ground that this was being handled at the technical level and must be kept on that level.

I agreed that for all these reasons it would be best to reconsider M. Bidault's visit later on, and I don't think that we shall hear anything more about it until the autumn. In the meanwhile the exchange of ratifications of the Treaty of Dunkirk - which was to have been the ostensible reason for the visit - will, I take it, now be proceeded with through the usual channels.

I took the opportunity to rub into M. Massigli how disappointed we were at the unhelpful attitude of the French local authorities at Port de Bouc which was, moreover, in flat contradiction to the assurances given by M. Bidault to the Secretary of State to the effect that the French Government would do what they could to facilitate and encourage the landing of these Jews.

M. Massigli was very apologetic, especially when I showed him Paris telegram No. 769 reporting the disgusting behaviour of the Paris press. He assured me that he had already impressed upon his Government how dangerous it was to allow this anti-British campaign to be fomented in this irresponsible manner and he would now telegraph again to the same effect and he hoped that we would soon see a cessation of these attacks. For instance, the Combat had already published a second

article.....

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Reference: FO 371 / 61820

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article in which it had unsaid a great deal of the unpleasant things it had said the day before.

31st July, 1947.

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~~Top Secret.~~  
~~Secret.~~  
Confidential.  
~~Restricted.~~  
Open.

OUT FILE

August, 1947.

შეკრულ

IMPORTANT

CONFIDENTIAL

*Draft.*

TELEGRAM

To: PARIS

No:

Dated:

Cypher

Cabinet  
Distribution.

NB

the rest of para.  
3 of Sir G. Sargant's  
minute (i.e. 2nd  
half of first sentence  
and 2nd sentence)  
is being dealt with  
by Western Dept.  
in a separate  
letter

235-Beim  
Aug 187

Western Dept. a/a

The French Ambassador called on Sir Orme Sargent on July 31st to discuss Monsieur Bidault's proposed visit to London. He started off by saying that, in view of the way the disembarkation of the Jews at Port de Bouc was proceeding, it would be better to postpone M. Bidault's visit until some date to be determined later. Besides, quite apart from the Jewish business, it would be embarrassing for M. Bidault if, when in London, he was precluded from discussing the question of the German level of industry on the grounds that this was being handled at the technical level and must be kept at that level. Sir Orme Sargent agreed that, for all these reasons, it would be best to reconsider M. Bidault's visit later on, ~~and it does not appear likely that we shall hear anything more about it until the autumn.~~

2. Sir Orme Sargent took the opportunity to rub into M. Massigli how disappointed we were at the unhelpful attitude of the French local authorities at Port de Bouc, which was, moreover, in flat contradiction to the assurances given by M. Bidault to the Secretary of State to the effect that the French Government would do what they could to facilitate and encourage the landing of these Jews.

3. M. Massigli was very apologetic, especially when shown your telegram No. 769

/ reporting

**NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.**

3148 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&amp;S.

## References

FO 371 / 61820

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164

E

E 7071

1947

AUG 1947

73

Registry  
Number

E 7071/45/31

FROM

Central

No.

Miami

Dated

Received  
in Registry

31 July 1947

6 Aug 1947

Interest against treatment of Jews ex.  
President Roosevelt.Transmit copy of letter from R.S.G. Blackman  
concerning protest by delegates of the six  
Shoah Council to P.S. - Red Reichsbank  
against protest. signed by both authorities  
of Swiss Immigration Dept.

Last Paper.

7070.

References.

(Minutes.)

2) Berl Locker, (Jewish Agency).

3) V.C. Osborne 22/8.

4) Jona Carford.

5) Jewish Zionist Assoc? No Reply

6) Leslie Baggin.

7) World Jewish Congress.

8) Palestine tel 1948 27/8.

9) Glasgow Women's Throat 27/9

10) Wembley and Dist. Migration Soc.

11) Oliver.

12) Sch. Convention, New York.

J.B. 6/8

J.B. (J.E. CABLE)

27/8 JB Aug 27

2/8

2/5/9

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

12) Channing

W. J. J.

Sept 13th

J. J. J.

(Action  
completed.)

J.C. 6/6/9

(Index.)

27/4/48

Next Paper.

E 7112

I do not think the "Brethren  
of Christ" require a reply, but we  
might ask H.M. Embassy in Washington  
to give the N.Y. State C.I.O. Council  
our standard reply.

N.A. Dept. First

Wt. 24772/717 17855 10/38 F.O.P. 9.2.2000 11/9

J.B. (J.E. CABLE)

JB Sept 12 1947

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Reference:

FO

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7/4

13) M. Cohen, Zionist Federation, Great Britain and Ireland

14) David Z. Teaneck.

no reply

15/9

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61820

No.

THE British Consul at Munich  
presents his compliments to H.M. Principal Sec. of State  
for Foreign Affairs  
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned  
documents.

British Consulate.....

Munich.....

E 7071

31st AUG. 1947.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of ltr. dated 25th July, 1947, from Mr. R. J. D. G. Blackmore, with enclosure in original, together with copy of Munich ltr. of 31st July, 1947	Protest of Jewish Displaced Persons.

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INDEXED *E. Emler* No. 645  
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 RECEIVED  
 at Central Telegraph Office, E.C. 1  
 TELEGRAM  
 Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.  
 8/15 PM 18  
 From p.m. 6.5 p.m. LONDON W.C. 261 To  
 By BRUTY. By 76  
 RT HON ERNEST BEVIN MP FOREIGN OFFICE SW 1

*Easton Dep*

Have sent following wire to Prime Minister today quote I appeal to you at the eleventh hour about the fate of the 4500 Jewish refugees now off Port De Bouc stop Their determination not to disembark in France appears to be definite and only the most inhuman measures can compel them to change their minds stop According to reports in the British Press conditions on the boats are appalling and it is incomprehensible that these people should be kept in cages in glaring heat any longer stop Some correspondents suggest that there is an intention of distributing the refugees among a number of tropical islands stop I would urge you not to inflict further suffering on innocent human beings by dumping them into places where they do not wish to go stop Mauritius should be a warning stop Out of 1580 deported there during the War over 100 died through inability to stand the climate and hygienic conditions stop Among the refugees at Port De Bouc there are about 1000 children and many women and elderly people stop I appeal to you not to take the line of punishment against people whose only crime is that they have refused to remain any longer in the concentration camps of Europe and have tried to reach their rightful National home where their kith and kin await them paragraph A great Government can afford to change a decision which everyone in this Country now realises was a grave error =

Berl Locker Executive Jewish Agency For Palestine +

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TELEGRAM

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. 319 Words.

8.0

m

From CPD  
NJC

5.55

LONDON WC 250

To



PRIME MINISTER 10 DOWNING STREET SW 1 =  
 1 APPEAL TO YOU AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR ABOUT THE FATE  
 OF THE 4500 JEWISH REFUGEES NOW OFF PORT DE BOUC STOP  
 THEIR DETERMINATION NOT TO DISEMBARK IN FRANCE APPEARS  
 TO BE DEFINITE AND ONLY THE MOST INHUMAN MEASURES CAN  
 COMPEL THEM TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS STOP ACCORDING TO  
 REPORTS IN THE BRITISH PRESS CONDITIONS ON THE BOATS  
 ARE APPALLING AND IT IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE THAT THESE  
 PEOPLE SHOULD BE KEPT IN GLARING HEAT ANY LONGER STOP  
 SOME CORRESPONDENTS SUGGEST THAT THERE IS AN INTENTION  
 OF DISTRIBUTING THE REFUGEES AMONG A NUMBER OF TROPICAL  
 ISLANDS STOP I WOULD URGE YOU NOT TO INFLICT FURTHER  
 SUFFERING ON INNOCENT HUMAN BEINGS BY DUMPING THEM  
 INTO PLACES WHERE THEY DO NOT WISH TO GO STOP  
 MAURITIUS SHOULD BE A WARNING STOP OUT OF 1580 DEPORTED  
 THERE DURING THE WAR OVER 100 DIED THROUGH INABILITY  
 TO STAND THE CLIMATE AND HYGIENIC CONDITIONS STOP AMONG  
 THE REFUGEES AT PORT DE BOUC THERE ARE ABOUT 1000  
 CHILDREN AND MANY WOMEN AND ELDERLY PEOPLE STOP I

For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAMS" or call, with this form, at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form and, if possible, the envelope.

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POST OFFICE



TELEGRAM

No. \_\_\_\_\_  
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78

From \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE TWO

APPEAL TO YOU NOT TO MAKE THE LINE OF PUNISHMENT  
AGAINST PEOPLE WHOSE ONLY CRIME IS THAT THEY HAVE  
REFUSED TO REMAIN ANY LONGER IN THE CONCENTRATION  
CAMPS OF EUROPE AND HAVE TRIED TO REACH THEIR  
RIGHTFUL NATIONAL HOME WHERE THEIR KITH AND KIN  
AWAIT THEM PARAGRAPH A GREAT GOVERNMENT CAN AFFORD  
TO CHANGE A DECISION WHICH EVERYONE IN THIS COUNTRY  
NOW REALISES WAS A GRAVE ERROR

BERL LOCKER EXECUTIVE JEWISH AGENCY  
FOR PALESTINE ++

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INDEXED

79

7071 48-31

22. 8. 47

The Foreign Secretary.

Sir.

My wife and I protest most strongly against the threat to send the Jews who wish to go to Palestine back to Germany. It is a diabolically wicked suggestion. Have not these people suffered enough? Was it all hush when the House of Commons stood in silence at the murdering of the Jews during the War? Only a fascist mind could conceive such an idea as sending Jews to Germany.

Yours disgustingly

V. C. Osborne  
A Cockney and life long voter for the Labour Party.

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Reference:

FO

371

61820

INDEXED

## SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Muswell Hill Meeting.

The Prime Minister,  
10, Downing Street.

*Ack. exp. auths.  
7/10 20/8*

*R22/8*

80

11

Dear Mr. Atlee,

I am writing to protest against the Foreign  
Office's decision to deport the Jews on board the prison ships  
off Port de Bouc to the British Zone in Germany.

As a member of the Society of Friends I believe  
all human life is sacred. "There is the Seed of God in Everyman".  
Men should be allowed freedom whereas they have not even got peace,  
and are pushed from pillar to post, without their sanction. Surely  
there can be no purpose in sending these people back to the country  
of horrors from which we, ourselves, liberated them. Can we still  
be called a Christian Country if we do these unchristian acts?

*Dora Catford.*

Elder of the Society of Friends.

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From

By

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120 5.40 LEEDS LHM 15

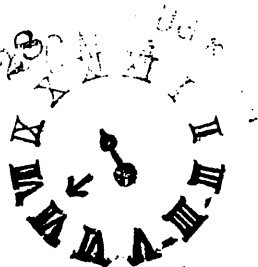
By

LCS 82

FOREIGN SECRETARY WHITEHALL LONDON SW 1

WE PROTEST STRONGLY AGAINST SENDING JEWS BACK TO

GERMANY - ZIONIST ASSOCIATION



For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call, with this form  
at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form, and, if possible, the envelope.

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C

Wt. 25044/P4666. 9/46 G.N.P.Oo. Ltd. 51-7260

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7071 / 48 R1  
30 AUG 1947  
OUTWARD TELEGRAM INDEXED

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Code

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

Sent 27th August, 1947. 11.15 hrs.

No. 1948

Following is text of telegram received from  
Mr. Magnes August 24th:-

"Colonial Secretary Creach Jones London:-

Because landing EXODUS refugees in Palestine or  
Cyprus now appears impossible to British Government I  
plead most earnestly to divert them to England or any other  
British port but not to take them to Germany. Surely you  
would not land them in Germany if you realise how even the  
mention of that name fills the heart of almost every Jew  
with dread and loathing. Forgive me for saying such a step  
appears to me to be unchristian. I pray you soften your  
hearts and give my people sanctuary in a land not defiled  
by persecution. Jewish Magnes. President Hebrew University".

If you see no objection please acknowledge receipt  
informing sender that in the absence of the Secretary of  
State message has been submitted to Parliamentary  
Under-Secretary, that it is regretted that the decision  
cannot be reversed and adding that these illegal  
immigrants were offered sanctuary in France but themselves  
decided not to accept it.

Copy sent to:-

Foreign Office

- Mr. Baith.

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**TREAT OFFICIALLY**

26 AUG 1947

Subr. 107

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RT HON J CHUTER EDE MP HOME OFFICE =

VIEW WORLD WIDE JEWISH CONSTERNATION AT DECISION TO  
TRANSPORT TO GERMANY JEWISH SURVIVORS TAKEN FROM SHIP  
EXCUSE ME SPEAK TO YOU IN NAME OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES  
AND ORGANISATIONS IN 56 COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT OUR  
PLEA TO PRIME MINISTER TO RECONSIDER THIS UNFORTUNATE  
DECISION WHICH STRIKES GRAVE BLOW AT BRITAIN'S  
TRADITIONAL STATUS AS DEFENDER OF VICTIMS OF PERSECUTION  
MAURICE PERLWEIG AL EASTERMAN HEADS OF

Prefix	If CDE	Handed in	Office of Origin and Service Instructions or Nature of Service, if not a service telegram	Words	Received From
		6.10	LONDON T	76	SCRIVEN

CHARGES on Imperial and Foreign Telegrams and Radiotelegrams.

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Enter No. 12  
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At  
From Bis 2348  
By

At  
To  
By



Conest Bevan Foreign Office Whitehall

Strongly protest against sending  
exodus refugees to Germany  
Membling & District



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**Time handed in.**

Office of Origin and Service Instructions

46

CNCA 26/4

2 SEP 1941

**INDEXED**

No.

OFFICE STAMP

To

By

**From**

By

MR ERNEST BEVIN THE FOREIGN OFFICE WHITEHALL

LONDON =

WE APPEAL TO YOU TO AVERT THE UNSPEAKABLE TRAGEDY WHICH WILL RESULT FROM THE FORCIBLE DEPORTATION TO GERMANY OF THESE SURVIVORS OF THE NAZI EXTERMINATION CAMPAIGN. STOP IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONTEMPLATE

at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form, and, if possible, the envelope.

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From m

By

Wt. 25044/P4666 9/46 G.N.P.Co. Ltd. 51-7260

2 Mr. Ernest Benn  
RETURNING THESE DESPERATE VICTIMS OF INHUMANITY  
TO THE COUNTRY WHERE THE ANNIHILATION OF SIX  
MILLION OF THEIR KINSELDK WAS CONCEIVED AND  
EXECUTED STOP WE URGE YOU MOST EARNESTLY TO  
REVISE THIS POLICY = THE GLASGOW WOMENS LIONIST  
ORGANISATION 6 DIXON ST GLASGOW C 1, with this form  
at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form, and, if possible, the envelope.

B or C  
C



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Registry No. 7071/48/31

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

13 Sept 1947

Dear Chancery,

We enclose a copy of a telegram  
addressed to The Foreign ~~Letter~~ Minister  
by New York State C. I. O.  
of Laraboga Springs

Please send a suitable  
acknowledgment if you think fit.

Yours ever,

Eastern Department.

Blancery  
Washington.

TO Sept 12

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OFFICE

TELEGRAM



From

By

112 10/40 CRALEYDOWN 45

DEVAN FOREIGN OFFICE LONDON

INDEXED

WE ARE DEEPLY DISTRESSED OVER ACTION RE EXODUS JEW

AND PRAY THIS MAY RE REVERSED SINCE BRITAINS

DELIVEANCE FROM DESPERATE ECONOMIC SITUATION DEPENDANT

UPON HER SHOWING FAVOUR TO GODS DEFENCELESS PEOPLE

GENESIS 12 3 = J OLIVER FOR BRETHREN OF CHRIST

CRALEYDOWN \* \* 12 3 ECONOMIC SITUATION DEPENDANT

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Reference:-

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OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

13th September, 1947.

(E 7071/48/31)

90

Dear Chancery,

We enclose a copy of a telegram addressed to the Foreign Minister by New York State C.I.O. at Saratoga Springs.

Please send a suitable acknowledgment if you think fit.

Yours ever,  
Eastern Department.

The Chancery,  
British Embassy,  
Washington.

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**VIA COMMERCIAL**  
TELEPHONE FOR MESSENGER  
TO COLLECT YOUR CABLEGRAMS.

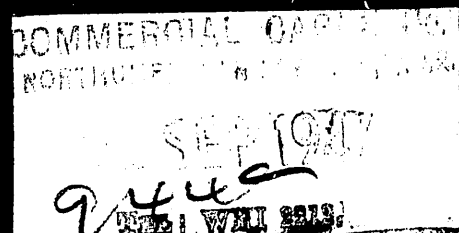
TELEPHONE: LONDON WALL 5678

All  
America  
Cables



Postal  
Telegraph  
U.S.A.

## Cablegram



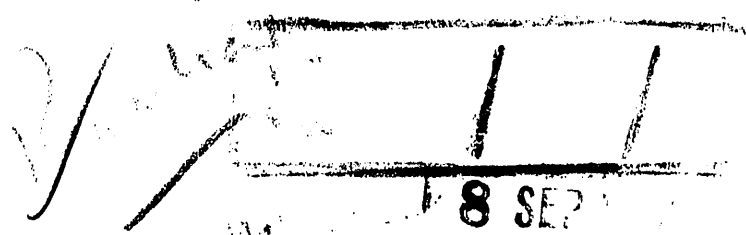
27/33, WORMWOOD STREET,  
LONDON, E.C.2.

PX 4 N 48 SARATOGASPRINGS NY 144 1/50 5 VIA COMMERCIAL

... NLT ERNEST BEVIN FOREIGN MINISTER LONDON =

91E

IN BEHALF OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NEW YORK  
STATE CIO AT SARATOGA SPRINGS NEW YORK REPRESENTING MORE THAN  
ONE MILLION MEMBERS WE URGE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO RETURN  
4400 REFUGEES TO PALESTINE WHO ARE NOW BEING SHIPPED TO  
GERMANY BY FORCE



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TELEGRAPHIC MESSENGER  
TO COLLECT YOUR CABLEGRAMS.

TELEPHONE: LONDON WALL 5678

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America  
Cables



Postal  
Telegraph  
U.S.A.

## Cablegram

COMMERCIAL CABLE CO.  
1, NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, W.C.2  
6-SEP 1947  
TEL: WBI 2212.

27/33, WORMWOOD STREET,  
LONDON, E.C.2

SEC RX 4

50 WDS ...

92

THESE PEOPLE WHO SURVIVED HITLER BY MIRACLE AND HAVE GONE  
THROUGH UNTOLD SUFFERING DESERVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THE  
COUNTRY IN WHICH THEY WISH TO LIVE WHICH HAPPENS TO BE THE  
LAND PROMISED TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE AS THEIR NATIONAL HOME BY  
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND BY FIFTY ONE OTHER

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# Commercial Cables

All  
America  
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Postal  
Telegraph  
U.S.A.

## Cablegram

ESSENGER  
CABLEGRAMS.

PHONE: LONDON WALL 5678

COMMERCIAL CABLES  
1, NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, W.C.2  
**6-SEP 1947**  
THE: WILL STONE

27/33, WORMWOOD STREET,  
LONDON, E.C.2

THIRD PAGE RX 4 44 WDS ...

93

NATIONS OF THE WORLD SIMPLY ON THE GROUNDS OF DECENCY AND  
HUMANITY THESE PEOPLE WHOULD BE GIVEN THE RIGHT TO ENTER  
PALESTINE =

LOUIS HOLLANDER PRESIDENT HAROLD J. GARNO SECRETARY  
TREASURER NEW YORK STATE CIO COUNCIL 101 WEST 31 STREET  
NEW YORK 1 NEW YORK +

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FORM No. 6B.

# WESTERN UNION

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CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS.

RECEIVED AT 5, NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, LONDON, W.C. 2. (Tel. No. Whitehall 8332.)

CX7 TDHF TEANECK NJER 78 1/48 6 1200(P

1947 SEP 6 PM 8 00 94

= LC ERNEST BEVIN

FOREIGN SECRETARY LONDON

DOWNING ST SW1 .

*Edg. Jr. 2/9*

= HONORABLE SIR

YET THERE IS TIME ENGLAND CAN BE REDEEMED IN EYES OF WORLD  
GOOD PEOPLES OF WORLD DO NOT WANT ENGLAND REDUCED TO NATION  
WITHOUT HONOR WE WANT A BETTER ENGLAND UNSCOP HAS GIVEN  
ENGLAND AN OPPORTUNITY TO AGAIN LEAD WORLD

Please send your Reply "Via WESTERN UNION" You may telephone us for a messenger

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## CABLEGRAM

ANGLO-AMERICAN TELEGRAPH CO., LD.

CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS.

RECEIVED AT 5, NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, LONDON, W.C. 2. (Tel. No. Whitehall 8332.)

2/CX7 LC ERNEST 30 =

95

RETURN LOST SOULS OF EXODUS AT LEAST TO CYPRESS ACT AT  
ONCE DO WHAT IS BEST FOR ENGLAND DO NOT BE FRIGHTENED  
BY COLONIAL OFFICE =

DAVID ZURIT TEANECK NEW JERSEY .....

Please send your Reply "Via WESTERN UNION" You may telephone us for a messenger

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המרכז הציוני בבריטניה הגדולה ואירלנד

# THE ZIONIST FEDERATION

OF

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

PRESIDENT;  
CHAIM WEIZMANN, ESQ., PH.D., D.Sc., LL.D.

HON. VICE-PRESIDENTS.  
THE RT. HON. LORD MELCHETT.  
SIR SIMON MARKS, D.Sc.

THE REV. J. K. GOLDBLOOM.

CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE :

BARNETT JANNER, ESQ., M.P.

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G. S. SILVERMAN ESQ., M.P.

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LT.-COL. H. MORRIS, M.P.

DR. W. PINNER.

REV. A. S. SUPER, M.A.

HON. TREASURER :  
BERMAN, ESQ. F.B.HIST.S

PAUL GOODMAN, ESQ., F.R.HIST.  
HON. SECRETARY

HON. SECRETARY:  
MAURICE COHEN, ESQ., LL.B.

L. BAKSTANSKY, LL.B., B.SC. (ECON.).

General Secretary,

75 GT. RUSSELL STREET,  
LONDON, W.C.1

-2-

5th September, 1947.

## Continuation

National Home would take it would continue to be associated with Great Britain and has repeatedly placed this hope on record at its Annual Conferences. It has condemned violence in Palestine in the most unequivocal terms whilst believing that this violence has arisen out of frustration and despair. The Council of the Federation is deeply apprehensive of the possible effect in Palestine of the contemplated action.

At this time when a solution of the Palestine question is in sight, it would be a matter of the deepest regret if anything should happen which would minimise the possibility of a peaceful settlement.

The publication of the report of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine, and the imminence of a settlement with a possibility of opening up of immigration into Palestine on a large scale gives, in the opinion of our Council, a unique opportunity for a statesmanlike gesture by His Majesty's Government.

In the name of humanity we appeal to His Majesty's Government to reverse its decision.

Yours faithfully,

MAURICE COHEN.  
Honorary Secretary.

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Reference:-

**FO 371 / 61820**

British Consulate,  
MUNICH.

31st July, 1947.

98

Dear Mr. Blackmore,

Thank you for your letter of 25th July and enclosure. Please tell the representatives of the Jewish D.P.s at Bad Reichenhall that the letter has been forwarded to the appropriate authorities in London.

The personal matter about which you called on me a few days ago has, of course, been attended to.

Yours sincerely,

(John A. Thwaites)  
H.M. Consul.

R.J.D.G. Blackmore,  
Area Director,  
Preparatory Commission,  
I.R.O.  
Area Team 1069, Bad Reichenhall.

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COPY

Preparatory Commission,  
I.R.O.  
Area Team 1069, Bad Reichenhall.

25 July, 1947.

To: The British Consul, Munich.

Subject: Protest of Jewish Displaced Persons.

On Thursday, the 24th instant, I received a delegation representing the six thousand Jewish Displaced Persons in assembly centers in Bad Reichenhall.

The delegates presented me with a very strong protest against the recent seizure by the British authorities of a vessel bound for Palestine with illegal emigrants thereon.

The verbal protest was accompanied by the attached signed document which the delegates desire to be forwarded through your Consular office to the Foreign Office, London. I therefore forward this document to you for appropriate action.

(signed) R.J.D.G. Blackmore  
Area Director

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Mr.

100

R. J. D. G. BLACKMORE

Director, Area Team 1069

Bad-Reichenhall.

=====

Hierdurch übersenden wir Ihnen die nachstehenden Resolutionen, die die Einwohner des jüdischen D.P. Lagers Bad-Reichenhall am 24. Juli 1947 um 12 Uhr mittags auf einer Massenprotestkundgebung angenommen haben, und bitten Sie höfl. eine Abschrift der Resolutionen an die Englische Regierung weiterzuleiten;

- 1.) Wir protestieren aufs schärfste gegen das englische Weissbuch vom Jahre 1939, insbesondere gegen die Zurückweisung des jüdischen Heimkehrschiffes von den Ufern unseres heiligen Vaterlandes.
- 2.) Wir verdammen die Terrormethoden der englischen Regierung gegen unsere Brüder und Schwestern in Palestina.
- 3.) Wir fordern ein sofortiges Öffnen der Tore Palestinas für eine freie unbegrenzte Einwanderung aller jüdischen D.P.'s aus Europa.
- 4.) Wir fordern die Proklamation eines freien, unabhängigen jüdischen Staates in P a l e s t i n a .

Präsidium der Protestkundgebung:

.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
Bender	.....
Grensfeld	.....
Feldman	.....
Solomon Klein	.....
Fuchs	.....
Solomon	.....
Wasser	.....
A. Verba	.....
Wolke	.....

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Reference: **FO 371/61820**

# TELEGRAM

RECEIVED IN P.O. BY

TELETYPE UNIT AT 0020 GMT

CWF36 CGR136 MONTREAL 67 22 1600 =

101

HIS MAJESTYS FOREIGN SECRETARY WHITEHALL LN =

CANADIAN JEWRY GREATLY DISTURBED BY REPORT EXODUS REFUGEES

WILL BE RETURNED TO GERMANY STOP THIS DECISION CANNOT

BUT WORSEN THE ALREADY UNHAPPY SITUATION STOP ON GROUNDS

OF THE HIGHEST HUMANITARIAN TRADITIONS HITHERTO ASSOCIATED

WITH GREAT BRITAIN AND THE COMMONWEALTH WE URGE THAT SOME

BASIS BE FOUND FOR THE ADMISSION OF THE REFUGEES TO PALESTINE =

UNITED ZIONIST COUNCIL S J ZACKS PRESIDENT +

SENT 2337/22/JA +

ACK AND RIP+

LERE CLOSER 22 AUG +

LAST FWD 37//

.5-15 %

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FO

371 / 61820



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ps  
 Regretted please  
 until soon  
 PK. 5/8

Athènes, le

E  
103

No 32352

6 AUG 1947

Monsieur le Ministre,

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception de la lettre en date du 27 juin dernier que Votre Excellence a bien voulu adresser à Monsieur Constantin Tsaldaris, au sujet de l'immigration illicite de Juifs en Palestine et de vous remercier de l'appréciation que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique s'est plu à témoigner à propos des mesures adoptées par le Gouvernement Hellénique pour y faire face.

Conscient de la gravité de la question le Gouvernement Royal dans le but d'empêcher ce mouvement, illégal a eu recours à des mesures préventives et repressives. En effet, le Décret-Loi No 1746 du 25 Mai 1939 qui constitue le fondement juridique de ces dernières, interdit sous peine d'emprisonnement et d'amende, le transport d'un port hellénique ou étranger à destination de la Palestine, par des navires battant pavillon hellénique, des personnes non munies de passeports réguliers dûment visés. Ces dispositions seront bientôt renforcées grâce à un nouveau texte législatif récemment soumis au vote de la Chambre, qui prévoit à l'encontre des délinquants des sanctions plus sévères, notamment la confiscation des navires servant au transport

Son Excellence

Monsieur Ernest Bevin

Ministre des Affaires Etrangères

1967|6|7|46 -- 20000 -- M. E. 8288

**LONDRES**

### Reference:-

FO 371 61820

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d'immigrés illicites en Palestine.

Quant aux mesures préventives, d'ordre administratif surtout, elles visent d'abord à empêcher tout transfert de pavillon ayant pour but de seconder les desseins d'entreprises soupçonnées de favoriser l'immigration illicite en Palestine. Des instructions formelles ont été, à cet effet, envoyées aux Autorités Consulaires helléniques afin qu'elles ne délivrent pas des papiers de bord provisoires aux navires suspects sollicitant leur inscription au registre hellénique d'immatriculation sans l'assentiment préalable du Ministère Royal de la Marine Marchande. Inversement ce dernier se réserve le droit de n'accorder son consentement, requis pour tout transfert valable d'un navire hellénique à des ressortissants étrangers, qu'à bon escient et une fois toutes les précautions prises.

D'autre part, les autorités de port helléniques ont été avisées de refuser tout approvisionnement en vivres et combustibles aux navires suspects de transporter des immigrants illicites et de veiller à la plus stricte application des dispositions de la Convention internationale de 1929 sur la "sauvegarde de la vie en mer" ainsi que de celle de 1930 sur "les lignes de chargement".

Enfin, pour mieux coordonner toutes ces mesures, le Ministère Royal de la Marine Marchande répondant à une suggestion de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique à Athènes

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a entrepris de dresser une liste noire des armateurs dont les navires servent au transport d'immigrés illicites et vient de s'adresser aux services britanniques compétents les priant de lui communiquer tous les renseignements utiles en leur possession concernant les navires et les personnes se livrant ou suspects de se livrer à ce trafic.

En terminant, je désire réitérer à Votre Excellence l'assurance déjà donnée par Monsieur C. Tsaldaris dans sa lettre du 24 Juin dernier adressée à Monsieur le Secrétaire Général de l'O.N.U. à propos de la note de Sir Alexander Cadogan que le Gouvernement Royal n'est en aucune manière disposé à souffrir que le territoire hellénique serve de transit ou de base de départ à ce mouvement. De cette détermination il vient de fournir une preuve récente en refoulant au lieu de leur provenance six Juifs trouvés en possession de faux titres de voyage à bord du navire panaméen "Cadio" faisant escale au Pirée.

Veuillez agréer Monsieur le Ministre les assurances de ma très haute considération.

*Psineles*

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<div>1947</div> <div>338 31</div>	<div>Palestine</div> <div>EASTERN</div>	<div>EY114 /G</div> <div>- 6 AUG 1947</div> <div>166</div>
<div>EY114 /48/G</div> <div>F.O. Memo.</div>	<div>S.S. President Warfield.</div> <div>Brief for Secretary of State's meeting with the Cabinet on July 31st.</div>	
<div>Last Paper.</div> <div>EY060</div>	<div>(Minutes.)</div> <div>Now see E 7116</div> <div><i>[Signature]</i> 7/8</div>	
<div>References.</div>		
<div>(Print.)</div>		
<div>(How disposed of.)</div>		
<div>(Action completed.)</div> <div>25 7/8</div>	<div>(Index.)</div> <div><i>[Signature]</i></div>	
<div>Next Paper.</div>		

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168  
[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Duff Cooper

No. 770

July 30th, 1947.

D. 2.15 p.m. July 30th, 1947.

R. 3.30 p.m. July 30th, 1947.

Repeated to Marseilles

Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean

SSSSS

MOST IMMEDIATE

Foreign Office please pass Most Immediate to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

Your telegram No. 1741.

President Warfield.

I am quite sure that it would be useless to ask the French Government to give the necessary instructions to their officials to assist us in using force to disembark passengers. Such a decision would in any case necessitate a Cabinet meeting, and the Socialist Ministers, including the Prime Minister, feel very strongly on the subject. M. Daniel Mayer, Minister of Labour, recently informed me that M. Moch, Minister of Transport, had convinced the Cabinet that France had been in no way to blame in this matter. The press (my telegram No. 769) are unanimous in condemning Great Britain already, and the reaction throughout France to the use of violence against those who are represented as having escaped from German prison camps would be deplorable.

2. Mr. Ashley Clarke is flying to London this afternoon in order to discuss the matter. Meanwhile, I am suspending action on your telegram under reference. The result could only be that Minister for Foreign Affairs would genuinely assure me of his desire to co-operate, but also of his impotence to persuade his colleagues. We are insisting on tugs being made available to passengers who may be willing to disembark.

[Copies sent to War Registry, Admiralty for repetition to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean]

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## CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

D: 1.10 p.m. 30th July, 1947.

30th July, 1947.

Repeated to: Marseilles No. 102  
C.I.C. Mediterranean  
C.I.C. M.E.L.F.

@@@      @@@      @@@

MOST IMMEDIATE

**SECRET**

Your telegram No. 764 and Marseilles telegrams Nos. 107 and 109 of July 29th; "President Warfield"]

I attach the utmost importance to the disembarkation of the passengers from the three vessels and cannot agree to the withdrawal of the ships as you suggest. It is therefore essential that the French authorities should give sufficient co-operation to make it possible to carry out the operation.

2. I shall be glad, therefore, if you will now make the strongest possible representations to the French Government and request them to send urgent and categorical instructions to the sub-prefect to co-operate in disembarking volunteers and non-volunteers alike and to ensure that these instructions are carried out. You should refer back to the undertaking which M. Bidault gave me that the Jews would be taken back into France (Paris telegram No. 682); emphasise that this has, in fact, been nullified by the attitude of the local authorities which, as Marseilles telegram No. 109 shows, has amounted so far to sheer obstruction and make it emphatically clear that we count upon them to honour their undertaking by admitting non-volunteers either at Port de Bouc or if now preferable at some other port. Press reports state, moreover, that, contrary to the assurance which the French Government gave that no small craft would be allowed near the ships, a Haganah launch, fitted with loudspeakers, was permitted to approach the convoy and incite the passengers to refuse to disembark. This undoubtedly had an unfortunate influence on the passengers.

3. You should make it clear to the French Government that we regard this matter as of crucial importance. Some of the Jewish leaders on board are clearly trying to work

/up

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Reference:-

**FO 371 / 61820**



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- 2 -

up the passengers into a hysterical state of mind, and it is in the interests of the passengers themselves that the French Authorities should co-operate with us in exerting a calming influence and in helping to carry out disembarkation in as orderly a manner as possible. If the French Government refuse, it can only mean increased suffering for these misguided people.

4. As the French authorities have failed to provide tugs for the disembarkation operations, it would seem that the most satisfactory arrangement now would be for the vessels to go alongside, either in Port de Bouc or elsewhere, to carry out disembarkation, and for the French local authorities to take adequate steps to ensure the maintenance of order during disembarkation operations.

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

111

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO MARSEILLES

No. 100

29th July 1947. D. 8.40 a.m. 30th July 1947.

Repeated to: Paris No. 1487 Saving.

v v v

IMPORTANT.

Jewish illegal immigration.

We understand that the British transports will run out of victuals for the Jewish illegal immigrants on July 30th. The French authorities have offered to provide food and lodging for these people ashore. We cannot arrange for further victuals to be provided on board and this should be made clear to all parties.

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Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Duff Cooper  
No. 764.

D. 6.46 p.m. July 29th, 1947.  
R. 8.10 p.m. July 29th, 1947.

July 29th, 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem  
Marseilles  
Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

W:W:W:W:W

MOST IMMEDIATE.

LIGHT.

Foreign Office please repeat to C.-in-C.  
Mediterranean and to Jerusalem as my telegram No.24.

President Warfield.

The French press are making the most of the situation that now exists at Port de Bouc which is as I ventured to foretell (see my telegram No.743) most unedifying. It must now be apparent that to attempt to land the emigrants by force without French co-operation and in face of the hostility of the population is not a practicable operation and I therefore recommend most strongly that the ships be withdrawn with the least possible delay.

The fact that the French Government has behaved very badly does not affect the situation that has arisen and it is a fact which will require time to impress upon the French people. Meanwhile all the odium is being incurred by His Majesty's Government.

[Copies sent to War Registry Admiralty for repetition to C.-in-C. Mediterranean and to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem.]

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Reference:-

**FO 371 / 61820**

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## CABINET DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Kay  
No. 109

D. 2.43 a.m. July 30th, 1947.  
R. 6. 0 a.m. July 30th, 1947.

JJJ

**SECRET**

Second and third transports were visited during the afternoon with the same results. Procedure of Committee was also similar but on second transport they got rather out of hand and mingled with immigrants, this led to exchange of questions and answers and Sub-Prefect asked a few selected immigrants specifically whether they wished to come to France. After some wavering they were intimidated by others into refusing.

2. On the strength of this and the fact that there had been mass refusal to land by all three transports Sub-Prefect and Committee affected to believe that none would land voluntarily. Military Commander asked for landing craft and doctors to stand by one of the transports tomorrow morning but Sub-Prefect flatly refused saying that in the circumstances he could take no further action without instructions from Paris.

3. This is sheer obstruction since Officer Commanding troops is satisfied that with no further outside interference a certain number of volunteers would land tomorrow. We strongly protested that mass refusal was merely a sign of hysteria and intimidation and was no proof whatever that no one would land; but the French authorities were adamant that they could not do more without instructions. I hope therefore that His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris will intervene urgently so that the necessary instructions are sent to the local authorities to continue to provide the agreed facilities for the operation.

4. As stated, however, in my telegram under reference, the real point still remains whether the French can be induced to co-operate in some use of force without which we fear there will be relatively few disembarkations.

5. Above is not (repeat not) agreed textually with Officer Commanding troops who is not at present available here.

F.O. please repeat MOST IMMEDIATE to C.-in-C. Mediterranean.  
[Copies sent to Admiralty for repetition to C.-in-C.  
Mediterranean.]

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 Reference:- **FO** 371 / 61820

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## CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE

No. 107.

D. 5.30 p.m. July 29th. 1947.

R. 7.35 p.m. July 29th, 1947.

**MOST IMMEDIATE**

SECRET

President Warfield.

Committee visited Runnymede Park this morning and Acting Préfet read out revised communiqué. Unanimous response of Jews was refusal to accept French offer. We fear passengers on the other vessels will react similarly.

2. We are now in no doubt that the passengers will not disembark without use of force. French authorities have made it plain that they can only accept genuine volunteers.

3. Our dilemma is that the use of force without French co-operation cannot be successful. They will not provide tugs for unwilling passengers. If on the other hand we brought transports alongside the quays the French police could not be expected to co-operate in keeping the port clear.

4. Port de Bouc being a Communist area something like pitched battles might well take place on land not to mention the difficulties with Jewish [gp. undec.] antagonists on shore.

5. If the operation is to continue it is therefore essential to get French agreement to co-operate in the use of force and accept non-volunteers.

6. Please send urgent instructions.

7. Above has been agreed with military-commander.

8. Foreign Office repeat Most Immediate to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

[Copies sent to War Registry Admiralty for repetition to Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean].

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Reference:-

**FO 371 / 61820**

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Duff Cooper  
No. 755

D. 8.00 p.m. 26th July 1947  
R. 9.10 p.m. 26th July 1947

26th July 1947

Repeated to Marseilles

Jerusalem

Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean

c c c c c c

MOST IMMEDIATE  
SECRET

Your telegram No. 1709: President Warfield.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs state that instructions having now been issued to all authorities with the express approval of Prime Minister it will be very difficult to obtain formal modification at this late stage. They have, however, instructed their representative on the committee immediately on arrival in Marseilles tomorrow (27th July) to inform Prefect that British Officer in Charge of Warfield's passengers considers that they will disembark peacefully provided that no outside propaganda reaches them. He is to say that in view of this new information it is surely better that the persons going on board on arrival should be confined to usual police and health officials, together with representatives of International Red Cross and I.G.C. who will help with removal of stretcher cases. If he cannot secure this he is to try to get proposed message suppressed altogether or at very least modified in accordance with your wishes.

2. We cannot be sure that this will come off but we shall rely on His Majesty's Consul-General and Mr. Coulson (who leaves for Marseilles by air 27th July) to try to carry point in the committee.

3. Your telegram No. 1701. We have throughout reserved the right to use force in the last resort and have reiterated it today in the presence of official who will represent Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Committee. You may nevertheless still want to consider whether British Officer in Charge of the operation and His Majesty's Consul-General in consultation should not be granted latitude to call off physical operations if there appears to be danger of very grave incident of a character which we cannot foresee but which may call for an immediate decision on the spot.

Foreign Office please pass Immediate to Jerusalem as my telegram No. 23 and Most Immediate to C-in-C Mediterranean.

[Copies sent to Admiralty and Colonial Office for repetition to C-in-C Mediterranean and Jerusalem]

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

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E.../48/G

Secret

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO MARSEILLES.

No. 97

27th July 1947.

D. 9.40 p.m. 27th July 1947.

Repeated to:

Paris No. 1721 (Most Immediate).

Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean (Most Immediate)

Jerusalem

Commander-in-Chief M.E.L.F. (Most Immediate)

V V V

MOST IMMEDIATE.

SECRET.

My telegram No. 1712 and Paris telegram No. 754  
[of 26th July: President Warfield].

I confirm the instructions contained in paragraphs  
1, 2 and 3 of Paris telegram No. 754 as amended by my  
telegram No. 1712.

2. After careful consideration it has been decided  
to revise instructions in paragraph 4 of Paris telegram  
No. 754 in order:

(a) to define precisely the respective respon-  
sibilities of yourself and O.C. Troops,

(b) to allow you the exercise of discretion within  
clearly stated limits.

3. You should, therefore, in place of instructions  
in paragraph 4 of Paris telegram No. 754 substitute the  
following.

4. Begins.

It seems possible that the following problems may  
arise, calling for a decision on the spot:

(a) If the immigrants refuse to leave the ships for  
the tugs, at what stage should force be employed? You  
should of course give O.C. Troops the benefit of your

/advice

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2.

5. In this connexion you should bear in mind that it is most important that all Jews should be disembarked. On success of operation depends effective establishment of principle of Refoulement, which should have very great effect in discouraging future illegal immigration. Besides, any Jews remaining on board the ships could only be taken to Cyprus as there is no other possible destination for them, and this, after all that has taken place, would make most unfortunate impression of weakness which should at all costs be avoided.

(i) The French may request us to take these passengers back on board the ships, or,

7. With reference to paragraph 3 of Paris telegram No. 755 you have discretion in event of danger of very grave incident to advise O.C. Troops temporarily to hold up disembarkation, but operation

/should.....

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Reference:- FO 371 / 61820



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3.

8. In connexion with paragraph 4 of Paris telegram No. 753 and paragraph 2 of Paris telegram No. 754, we hope French committee will not go on board at all. O.C. Troops, should, therefore, if he considers this will promote success of operation, make a statement to passengers as indicated in my telegram No. 1709 to Paris and ensure that this is disseminated throughout all ships as early as possible.

10. I would emphasise once more that operation will only be fully successful when all Jews have disembarked.

11. These instructions have been agreed by War Office and Admiralty.

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

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SECRET

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

No. 1712

D. 10.00 p.m. 26th July, 1947

26th July, 1947

Repeated to: Marseilles (Immediate) No. 96,  
Commander in Chief Mediterranean (Immediate)  
Jerusalem

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IMMEDIATE

SECRET

Your telegrams Nos. 753 and 754 [of 26th July:  
"President Warfield"].

We agree to proposal in paragraph 5 of your  
telegram No. 753 and presume that you will secure  
French consent in spite of paragraph (D) of your  
telegram No. 750.

2. We agree to paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of your  
telegram No. 754 subject to the following amendments  
already agreed by telephone:

(a) In first sentence of paragraph 2 for the  
words "voluntary transhipment", substitute "transhipment,  
if possible voluntarily".

(b) In paragraph 3 (a) insert the words "from the  
tugs" between "passengers" and "must be".

3. In connexion with paragraph 4 of your telegram  
No. 753 please see our telegram No. 1709. We should  
prefer to await French reply before taking any action.

4. We are very doubtful, however, about paragraph 4  
of your telegram No. 754 (repeat 754). In view of its  
operational implications, we are consulting the  
War Office and will telegraph agreed instructions on 27th  
July.

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FO 371 / 61820

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DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

**Cypher/OTP**

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

No. 1709

D. 3.15 p.m. 26th July 1947.

26th July, 1947.

Repeated to Marseilles No. 94 (Most Immediate).

Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean (Most Immediate)  
Jerusalem

Commander-in-Chief M.E.L.F.

MOST IMMEDIATE  
TOP SECRET

Your telegrams Nos. 747, 749 and 750 [of 25th July:  
"President Warfield"?

While general arrangements decided upon by French Government seem quite satisfactory, I am very much concerned about arrangements for committee to go on board and make statement on the lines indicated in paragraph (e) of your telegram No. 750.

2. It would be far preferable that committee do not go on board at all, but if this cannot be prevented, then it is of utmost importance that statement should be amended to omit the objectionable phrases "French Government..... will not force them to disembark", "will give refuge to all who disembark voluntarily. Those who decide to disembark ....." and the whole of the last sentence.

3. It is of course for His Majesty's Government to arrange disembarkation and for the French Government to arrange reception when they have left the ship and French Government must not interfere with our part of the operation. It is intention of His Majesty's Government that everything possible should be done to ensure voluntary and peaceful disembarkation of the passengers (see in this connexion my telegram No. 1707), but His Majesty's Government must reserve the right, if the passengers resist, to use such force as is necessary. In any event, no encouragement must be given to the passengers not (repeat not) to disembark.

4. Please make urgent and pressing representations to the French Government on this matter. You should in the first instance urge the French Government to agree that the committee should not go aboard the vessels. If, however, they insist on this you should urge that the proposed statement is modified in the sense indicated above.

5. We should be prepared if necessary to accept statement on following lines:-

"French Government wish to make known to the immigrants who were on board the "Exodus 1947" that they will give them refuge on French soil, where they will enjoy all the freedom etc. etc." - and delete the final sentence beginning "In consequence.....".

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Reference:-

**F0**      **371 / 61820**

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Duff Cooper D. 2.40 p.m. 26th July 1947  
No. 754 R. 3.55 p.m. 26th July 1947

26th July 1947  
Repeated to Jerusalem  
Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean  
Marseilles

c c c c c c

MOST IMMEDIATE  
SECRET

My immediately preceding telegram: President Warfield.

Following are draft instructions to His Majesty's  
Consul General at Marseilles.

You are responsible

(a) For representing His Majesty's Government on the  
committee to be set up by the Prefect of the Bouches du Rhone.

(b) For ensuring liaison between the French and British  
authorities concerned; for this purpose you should make the  
earliest possible contact with the Senior British Officer  
in charge of the refugees.

(c) For advising the Senior British Officer in the  
light of the local situation.

2. The object to be achieved is to ensure the  
voluntary transhipment into French tugs of the maximum  
number of passengers. For this purpose, it will be important

(a) To ensure that the French authorities make their  
offer of hospitality as attractive as possible.

(b) To ensure that this is fully understood by the  
passengers.

(c) To encourage by all suitable means that an early  
lead to disembark is given which will be followed by the rest.

3. It should be borne in mind

(a) That the putting ashore of passengers must be a  
French operation for which the French authorities are  
/ entirely.....

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1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371 / 61820

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121A

(b) That in no circumstances should members of the British armed forces set foot on French soil.

(d) That priority should be given to the landing of stretcher cases; for this purpose arrangements should be made to allow representatives of the International Red Cross Committee on board the transports. (This may in itself encourage a general move to land).

(a) Whether, in the event of a considerable number of passengers refusing to disembark, they should be forcibly placed in the tugs (or landing-craft) provided by the French. It will be for you to decide, basing yourself on the temper of the French authorities with whom you are in contact, at what point to advise the Senior British Officer to use such force.

(c) What should be done with passengers who never leave the transports or are returned to them by the French authorities. Subject to any further instructions received from the Foreign Office you should advise the Senior British Officer to hold them and await instructions for departure. This period may amount to some days and in the meanwhile he should use every endeavour to induce them to land.

[Copies sent to Admiralty and to Colonial Office for repetition to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean and Jerusalem respectively]

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61820

Cypher OTP

122  
DEPARTMENTAL No. 2

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Du f Cooper  
No. 753

D. 2.05 p.m. 26th July 1947.

26th July 1947.

R. 3.20 p.m. 26th July 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem  
Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean  
Marseilles

MOST IMMEDIATE

rrrrrr

Foreign Office please repeat Most Immediate to Jerusalem  
as my telegram No. 21 and Most Immediate to Commander-in-Chief  
Mediterranean.

Secret.

My telegram No. 750.

President Warfield.

My immediately following telegram contains draft  
instructions we have prepared for His Majesty's Consul-  
General Marseilles.

2. If you approve please arrange for similar instructions  
to be sent to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean and let us know  
immediately.

3. We shall press French to agree to deletion from  
communiqué of words "will not force them to disembark but" or  
failing that to have no communiqué at all, but we are not  
sanguine of success.

4. As it will be extremely difficult, if not impossible,  
to prevent Committee representatives speaking to passengers  
on lines of the communiqué once ships have arrived we suggest  
that substance of the communiqué, stressing French offer of  
hospitality, should be disseminated among passengers at once  
in order to encourage them to land. May convoy be instructed  
accordingly?

5. Please inform us who is the senior British officer  
in charge of the refugees, in what ship he is travelling, and  
any relevant details about British formation in charge of  
convoy and refugees. We consider it important that His  
Majesty's Consul General should be able to discuss plans with  
senior British officer before disembarkation operation begins.  
Best arrangement would be for one of escorting ships to carry

him

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371/61820**

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- 2 -

6. Please inform us how many stretcher cases there now are and in what condition.

[Copies sent to War Registry Admiralty and Telegraph Section Colonial Office for retransmission to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean and Jerusalem respectively].

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Reference:-  
**FQ 371 / 61820**



AMENDED DISTRIBUTION

15th July 1947

15th July 1947

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].  
CYPHER/OTP

## CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr Duff Cooper  
No: 682

D.8.14 p.m. 12th July 1947

12th July 1947

R.9.35 p.m. 12th July 1947

Repeated to Jerusalem

4 4 4 4

IMMEDIATE

Foreign Office please repeat to Jerusalem as my telegram telegram No:9.

**SECRET**

Following from Secretary of State.

Jewish Illegal Immigration.

I protested strongly to M. Bidault this morning against the failure of the French authorities to prevent the "President Warfield" from sailing from Sete with (according to latest reports) 4,000 passengers. I stated that we intended to make an example of this ship by obliging her to return to a French port with all her passengers and I counted on the French to co-operate by receiving her back and disembarking the passengers.

2. M.Bidault agreed to this.

3. Please arrange accordingly with the Admiralty. If, as I presume, action cannot be taken until ship reaches Palestine territorial waters, I trust that there will be a sufficiently impressive show of naval strength as the "President Warfield" is a comparatively large vessel and there are a large number of persons on board. If there is any difficulty about accommodating escort and controlling passengers on return journey I suggest that other ships should be called upon to assist but that before re-entering French waters all passengers should be re-embarked in "President Warfield".

4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been warned that ship may herself seek to enter French North African waters about 2200 hours this evening 12th July.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section, Colonial Office for transmission to Jerusalem].

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E 7115

6 AUG 1947

1947

338

PALESTINE

Registry Number

EY115/48/31

FROM

Netherlands Mistr

No.

Foreign

Dated

Offence

Received in Registry

62474-452695

July 26

Aug 15

Illegal Immigration

125

Refer to letter (E5001/48/9)

Premium instead of to Netherlands Govt, re Illegal Immigration.

Last Paper.

EY114

References.

(Minutes.)

I see no reason why this should be green.  
This is a nice letter, but the real test will come if and when we actually want them to do something.

*J. E. C. H. A. B. E.*  
7/8

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

comps) Chancery  
The Hague  
13. Aug

Copy to the Chancery at  
the Hague with Eastern Dept's comps.

*H. S. Beint*  
Aug 7

and enter white

H.B. 7/8

(Action completed.)

*G. L. 19/8*

(Index)

*[Signature]*

Next Paper.

E 7116

30047 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371/61820

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EYHS

E 15 AUG 1947

25/5

Enter 11a

- 6 AUG 1947

No. 62474-4526 G.S.



Eastern Dept. 126  
E 7115  
31/7

CONFIDENTIAL

10/12

The Hague, 26th July 1947

Dear Mr. Bevin,

I wish to thank you for your personal and confidential letter Nr. E 5001/48/G of June 27th, which was handed to me by Sir Neville Bland.

I brought the question of the Jewish illegal immigrant traffic to the attention of my colleagues.

On behalf of Her Majesty's Government I wish to thank you for your words of appreciation for the help we were able to give. I followed with interest the action taken by the General Assembly requesting all Governments and peoples to refrain, pending action on the report of the special Committee on Palestine, from the threat or use of force, or any other action, which might create an atmosphere prejudicial to an early settlement of the question of Palestine.

I have been authorized by my colleagues to inform you that you can rest assured of the assistance of the Netherlands Government within the scope of the existing Netherlands legislation, in particular with regard to the stopping of any unauthorized departure of immigrants into Palestine and the fitting out and bunkering of ships engaged in the traffic should the presence of such ships in the Netherlands waters occur.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

The Right Hon. Ernest Bevin, M.P.  
His Britannic Majesty's Principal  
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,  
Foreign Office  
LONDON S.W.1.

*G. J. Bontelaar*

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61820

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**PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE**

Group..... *F0*

Class ..... *371*

Piece ..... *61820*

Following document(s)\*

~~retained in the Department of origin\*~~

transferred to PRO Safe Room\*

*E 7116/48/31*

and closed until..... *1998*

\*delete as necessary

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1	2	3	4	5	6
Reference: <b>FO 371 / 61820</b>					

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> 341  1947  31 </div> <div> 141st  EASTERN </div> <div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> EY121 /G  5 AUG 1947 </div> 127 </div> </div>	
EY121 /48/9  Mr Kay Massillon 125 Dated 5 Aug Received 6 Aug.	President Warfield: Rumors of dysentery denied.
Last Paper. E6978	(Minutes.)  <i>False</i> (T. & CABLE) 13/8 10 Aug 14
References.	
(Print.)	
Amended (disposed of.) 8) 11P      9 Aug	
<div style="display: flex;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> (Action completed.)   8/17/8 </div> <div style="flex: 1;"> (Index.)   up H. </div> </div>	
Next Paper.	

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61820**

Cypher/OTP.

E-7121  
- 6 AUG 1947  
DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

128

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Kay. D. 6.05 p.m. 5th August, 1947.  
No. 125. R. 10.40 p.m. 5th August, 1947.

5th August, 1947.

Repeated to Paris.

IMMEDIATE.

- - - -

SECRET.

Illegal Jewish immigration.

My telegram 124.

<sup>19</sup>  
~~As a result~~ Jews are expected to [grps undec. ?  
disembark today] subject to weather conditions.

2. There is no (repeat no) truth in the report  
of an outbreak of dysentery on board but there are some  
cases of diarrhoea.

3. Press representatives including four Jewish  
journalists visited transports today. They are believed  
to have been impressed by the good relations existing  
on board. They are authorised to admit press photographers  
as well.

4. It has become essential for "Runnymede Park"  
to bunker without further delay and we are bringing her  
to Marseilles for the purpose on August 6th (Foreign  
Office telegram 110 refers).

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat]

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference: -

FO 371 / 61820

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129

6th August 1947.

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130

CYPHER/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Kay.  
No. 124.

D: 7.35 p.m. 4th August, 1947.

4th August, 1947.

R: 10.40 p.m. 4th August, 1947.

Repeated to: Paris.

@@@ @@@ @@@

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

Illegal Jewish immigration.

My telegram No. 121.

Four Jews disembarked to-day.

Master "Ocean Urgow" announced [grp.omtd.]  
expires August 9th and we have telegraphed Ministry  
of Transport asking for instructions in the event  
of crew demanding release.

Officer Commanding Troops suggests that immigrants  
are allowed newspapers and mail facilities. We assume  
we are not allowed to incur expenditure in this  
connexion but await your instructions.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat.]

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Reference: FO 371 / 61820

171

1947

E

PALESTINE

E 7122

6 AUG 1947

131

Registry  
Number

E 7122/48/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

W. Ruff Cooper

Dated

Paris

Received  
in Registry

788

5 August  
6

Jewish Immigrants ex 'President Warfield'  
M. Borquet told Mr. Ruff Cooper, that the  
Foreign Office was much disturbed by the  
continuing effort on Anglo-French relations  
of the absence of any solution to the  
problem of the 'President Warfield' passengers  
further contact, and proposed solution.

Last Paper.

7121

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

I.I. Dis 6

✓ Aug 11

(Action  
completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

E 7125

(Minutes.)

I have asked that this telegram  
should be given Cabinet Distribution,  
which is being done.

This new move by the French  
Mr. J.F.A. represents a serious  
attempt to help us. The Queri  
d'Orsay are as distressed as  
our Embassy by the refroidissement  
which the incident has caused,  
and which is entirely the fault  
of the Socialist members of the  
French Cabinet (Messrs. Jules  
Moch and Depierreux in particular).  
These latter have, with the Zionists,  
done everything possible to  
obstruct disembarkation and  
encourage the Jews in their  
stand.

32008 F.O.P.

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Reference:-

FO 371/61820

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132:

Stand.

We should hear tomorrow  
whether M. Bidault has been  
able to put his helpful proposal  
across in the French Cabinet today.

If it is accepted, the French  
spokesman is likely to be  
M. Colavari, the sous-préfet.

I understand that, after a  
weak start, he has shown  
himself reasonably helpful and  
the Jews are now used to him  
and likely to take his word  
as well as <sup>that of</sup> any other  
French authority.

Western Dept.

1/10/55

M. (Beith)  
Aug 6<sup>th</sup>  
(BEITH)

763. 9/8

G.P.P. W.O. 61 92999 8/8.

19/8

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61820

Minutes. 133  
Mr Henniker <sup>S/S</sup> You asked me  
about this. It's 7/8  
Paris Embassy have promised  
to telephone as soon as they  
know the fate of M. Bidault's  
proposal. Nothing to date  
received.

*W. J. M.*

*W. J. M.*  
Aug 7  
4 pm.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61820

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E 7122

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

5 AUG

D. 7.59 p.m. 5th August, 1947.

R. 9.27 p.m. 5th August, 1947.

**IMMEDIATE.**

SECRET.

Illegal Jewish immigration.

M. Bousquet asked Mr. Ashley Clarke to call today and indicated that Ministry of Foreign Affairs were much disturbed by the continuing ill effect on Anglo-French relations of the absence of any solution to the problem of the President Warfield's passengers. He mentioned in strict confidence that Ministry of the Interior had now requested the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to require of us the immediate withdrawal of the ships now at Port de Bouc. Ministry of Foreign Affairs intended to refuse this request but were anxious to propose some definite line of action to try and induce the immigrants to disembark so as to bring the existing situation to an end. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs were anxious to be helpful to us and M. Bousquet enquired whether we had any suggestions.

2. Mr. Ashley Clarke said that obviously there were two courses of action open either the use of force or the use of persuasion. First of these would require co-operation of the French authorities at least to the extent of allowing ships to come alongside, clearing the quay and providing adequate police forces to cope with the passengers as they were landed. M. Bousquet was not inclined to dwell on this.

3. Alternatively it was necessary to persuade the passengers that they were not going either to Palestine or Cyprus, that their ultimate destination might well be disagreeable and that they might not find themselves free when they got there. Until His Majesty's Government took some decision as to a possible final destination it was difficult to put this across as up till now the passengers had refused to credit what they were told by our military authorities on board. Eventually however we should probably wish to count on French assistance in carrying sufficient conviction to the mass of the passengers so that the present hold of their leaders over them was shaken.

14.

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61820

5. After consultation with your department by telephone we have informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that this suggestion was agreeable to us and it is accordingly being submitted to the Minister for Foreign Affairs with a view to discussion at the Council of Ministers tomorrow.

[Copies sent to Colonial Office Telegraph  
Section for repetition to Jerusalem]

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Reference:- **FO 371 / 61820**

14 AUG 1947

**TOP SECRET**  
**CIPHER TELEGRAM**

**INDEXED**

*h.w.*  
*136*

This message will not be distributed outside British Government Departments or Headquarters or re-transmitted, even in cipher, without being paraphrased.  
(Messages marked O.T.P. need not be paraphrased.)

FROM: War Office  
TO : C-in-C MELF

**E 7122/48/71**

MO4/BN/2211

DTO 081100 B/Aug  
Desp 8 Aug 47  
(MO4)

TOP SECRET 92999

Following is repeat of PARIS to Foreign Office telegram No 788 dated 5th August, 1947.

BEGINS

Illegal Jewish immigration.

M. Bousquet asked Mr. Ashley Clarke to call today and indicated that Ministry of Foreign Affairs were much disturbed by the continuing ill effect on Anglo-French relations of the absence of any solution to the problem of the President Warfield's passengers. He mentioned in strict confidence that Ministry of the Interior had now requested the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to require of us the immediate withdrawal of the ships now at Port de Bouc. Ministry of Foreign Affairs intended to refuse this request but were anxious to propose some definite line of action to try and induce the immigrants to disembark so as to bring the existing situation to an end. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs were anxious to be helpful to us and M. Bousquet enquired whether we had any suggestions.

2. Mr. Ashley Clarke said that obviously there were two courses of action open either the use of force or the use of persuasion. First of these would require co-operation of the French authorities at least to the extent of allowing ships to come alongside, clearing the quay and providing adequate police forces to cope with the passengers as they were landed. M. Bousquet was not inclined to dwell on this.

/3. ....

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Reference: **FO 371/61820**

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3. Alternatively it was necessary to persuade the passengers that they were not going either to Palestine or Cyprus, that their ultimate destination might well be disagreeable and that they might not find themselves free when they got there. Until His Majesty's Government took some decision as to a possible final destination it was difficult to put this across as up till now the passengers had refused to credit what they were told by our military authorities on board. Eventually however we should probably wish to count on French assistance in carrying sufficient conviction to the mass of the passengers so that the present hold of their leaders over them was shaken.

4. M. Bousquet explained that ministerial sanction would be required for French intervention in any procedure of this kind and unfortunately the Council of Ministers only met once a week during the present month, next meeting being tomorrow 6th August. In view of the desirability of avoiding a week's delay if this opportunity were missed he enquired whether it would meet our views if M. Bidault were to seek authority tomorrow for a representative of the French Government to go on board each of the ships and speak to the passengers on their behalf in the following sense. Quote. We do not know what ultimate destination the British Government have in mind for you but we do know that you are not going to Palestine or Cyprus. You may be sent to some distant island or perhaps to Germany and it may well be that you will not be free when you get there. Would you not be wise to take the opportunity of freedom in France while the opportunity still exists. Unquote.

5. After consultations with your department by telephone we have informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that this suggestion was agreeable to us and it is accordingly being submitted to the Minister for Foreign Affairs with a view to discussion at the Council of Ministers tomorrow.

ENDS.

Message Control

IMMEDIATE

Message Control.

/War Office distribution...

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<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p>341</p> <p>EY125/48/9</p> <p>Mr Naim Isordank 53</p> <p>Dated 5 Aug Received 6 Aug.</p> </div> <div> <p>31</p> <p>341</p> </div> </div>		<p>Palentine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> EY125/G </div> <p>139</p>
<p>Paducah &amp; Northlands</p>			
<p>Last Paper.</p> <p>EY117</p>	<p>(Minutes.)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Signature]</i> 7/8</p>		
<p>References.</p> <p>EY060/48/9.</p>			
<p>(Print.)</p>			
<p>(How disposed of.)</p> <p>8)11P</p>			
<p>(Action completed.)</p> <p>28 7/8</p>	<p>(Index.)</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i></p>		
<p>Next Paper.</p>			

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Reference:-

**FO 371 / 61820**



E  
Cypher/OTP

*Ey125*  
*ilen*  
- 6 AUG 47  
DEPARTMENTAL No.1

FROM BORDEAUX TO FOREIGN OFFICE 140

Mr Nairn  
No. 53

5th August, 1947.

D. 12. 40 p.m. 5th August, 1947.

R. 8. 25 p.m. 5th August, 1947.

2 2 2 2

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

My telegram No. 52.

It is confirmed that Paducah sailed from Bayonne on August 4th at 1900 hours local time. She embarked no (repeat no) passengers. Although she gave her port of destination as Leghorn it is not thought she will proceed there. She is still short of 40 tons of fuel oil. Northlands is at Bayonne.

[Copy sent to M.E. Secretariat].

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**FO** 371 / 61820

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Group F0 .....

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Department of origin under Section 3 (4)

E 7126 / 48 / 31

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Reference:-

**FO 371 / 61820**

175

E

141

1947

E 7145

7 AUG 1947

Registry  
Number

E 7145/48/31.

FROM

M.T.C. Paris

No.

French Embassy

Dated

to Sir A. Dargatzis

Received  
in Registry

31 July

7 Aug.

*'President Crawford' French Press.**Encloses copy of issue of 'Combat' of  
31 July, containing an article on the  
'Executive' affair.*

Last Paper.

7127

References.

2/16

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Spt. M. T.C. Paris

Aug. 2.

from L. T. Beaumont

(Action  
completed.)

98/1626/8

(Index.)

2/16/48

Next Paper.

711-2

(Minutes.)

*all things considered, this is really  
quite a reasonable article.*

News Dept. DID 12/8

Inf. Policy Dept. 12/8

Western Dept.

1/16/48

Quite helpful

JB Aug 7

*[Signature]*  
(J.E. CABLE)  
7/8

1 2 3 4 5 6

Reference:

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le 31<sup>e</sup> Juillet 1947

7 AUG 1947

Chas. L. Brown,

Cet article marque un progrès sur ceux qui ont été publiés jusqu'ici par la presse parisienne, bien qu'un de ses paragraphes où il est fait mention de "cages flottantes" et de "cargaison d'esclaves" ne soit pas conforme à ce qu'on pourrait souhaiter.

qu'on pourrait souhaiter.

Si comme l'assurance de  
vos sentiments les plus  
dévotés

Veuillez agréer, Cher  
F. Fauriol

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**Reference:**

FO 371 / 61820

OUT FILE

143

FOREIGN OFFICE  
S.W.1.

E7145/48/31

August 2nd, 1947.

Sir Orme Sargent asks me  
to thank you for sending him  
under cover of your letter of  
the 31st July, a copy of the  
issue of "COMBAT" of that date  
containing an article on the  
"EXODUS" affair.

Signed L. J. Pamphre

(Private Secretary)

Monsieur Jacques-Camille Paris,

20

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61820

COMBAT 31<sup>st</sup> July 1947

# LES PAYSAGES DE LA PAIX

par Jean **TEXCIER**

**O** U sort-ils donc aujourd'hui ces lieux paisibles, et aussi ces hommes, vivant en confiance auprès des autres hommes ?

Ni à Brest, où, dans une atmosphère de catastrophe, les habitants ont dû abandonner leurs ruines encore fraîches pour s'enfoncer dans les campagnes, chassés par l'incendie.

Ni à Port-de-Bouc, d'où, sous le soleil de Jéhovah, on peut voir, immobilisés sur la mer, ces navires que les survivants de l'« Exodus », déplorables témoignages des séquelles guerrières et des libertés détruites, au cri de « La Palestine ou la mort ! » refusent de quitter.

**Ainsi, la nature et les hommes s'unissent follement pour prolonger et faire naître le drame dans un monde incapable d'organiser même un semblant de paix.**

Majs, dans cette affaire de l'« Exodus », il ne suffit pas de prononcer des anathèmes et rien ne sera fait si l'on se borne à dire que la situation ainsi créée à des milliers d'innocents révolte à la fois notre raison et notre sensibilité. J'ai déjà dit que le problème des Juifs « déplacés », hôtes actuels de ces camps de concentration organisés par les Alliés pour les « rescapés » des bagnes hitlériens, n'était qu'un des aspects tragiques du problème plus général des réfugiés politiques dont les Nations Unies n'ont pas encore trouvé la solution. Au rendez-vous mythique : « L'an prochain à Jérusalem » s'ajoutent aujourd'hui d'autres rendez-vous que des errants de toutes nations se donnent aux lieux de liberté que redeviendront un jour leurs patries confisquées.

Ce problème se pose au monde civilisé tout entier et non point à la seule Grande-Bretagne. Et si, aujourd'hui, à propos de l'« Exodus », cette nation se trouve mise en cause, il faut veiller à ce que l'incident, si douloureux soit-il, ne serve point de prétexte à une campagne antibritannique dont on voit très bien quelle politique et aussi quelles rancunes elles peuvent servir.

On sait que les questions posées par la création d'un Etat juif ne sont pas simples, et on comprend que la Grande-Bretagne, qui en eut l'idée et qui est actuellement responsable de l'ordre en Palestine, ne soit point à son aise, prise qu'elle est entre le fanatisme de la Ligue arabe et celui de l'Irgoun. Nous devons reconnaître que, dans la situation actuelle des choses et des esprits, il peut être dangereux de laisser se déverser incessamment et sans contrôle de nouveaux pèlerins dans un petit univers qui se trouve être un champ de bataille. Nous devons admettre aussi qu'aux inconvénients de cette immigration sans retenue s'ajoutent les dangers d'une traversée hasardeuse pour des milliers de passagers, entassés sur des vaisseaux dont ni la navigabilité, ni le commandement ne sont contrôlés, et qui sont parfois aux mains de trafiquants organisés. Nous savons enfin que la Grande-Bretagne fait valoir que le drame de l'« Exodus » ne se serait pas produit si les autorités françaises n'avaient pas laissé s'opérer des embarquements aussi aventureux.

Mais, quoi ! il n'en reste pas moins que des milliers d'hommes qui, après une attente et un martyre sans nom, se fiant à cette espérance que fit naître une grande nation touchée par leurs malheurs, se sont, une nuit, entassés, munis de leurs pauvres bagages, sur une arche de fortune, espérant trouver enfin le repos sur la terre promise.

Mais voici que, capturés en mer et ramenés à leur point de départ, ils sont là, prisonniers, ne démordant pas de leur espoir et refusant farouchement de quitter des cages flottantes qui font pen-

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Reference:

FO 371 61820

176

E

E 7152

1947

PALESTINE

7 AUG 1947

145

Registry Number } E7152/48/31

FROM F.O. Minute

No.

Dated

Received in Registry } 7.8.47

Immigrants to Palestine removed from the Exodus 1947.

Proposed Parliamentary Question by Mr. Silverman on 31 July, disallowed by the Speaker, enquiring whether the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has any further statement to make concerning the 4,500 immigrants.

Gives text of proposed reply.

Last Paper.

7145

References.

(Minutes.)

*Handwritten signature*  
(T.E. CABLE)  
8/8  
B Angf

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

*Handwritten signature*

(Index.)

*Handwritten signature*  
27/7/48

Next Paper.

7165

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

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146

7152

7 AUG 1947

(Thursday 31st July)

coming  
to their place  
of departure

✓ But it has  
been made  
plain to them  
that

oneselves

To help us to  
Facilitate; and to check

exh- two

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**Reference:**

371 / 51820



<p>1947</p> <p>324 31</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>EY165/G</p> <p>27 AUG 1947</p> <p>146</p>
<p>EY165/48/C</p> <p>Mr Kay</p> <p>Marseilles</p> <p>126</p> <p>Dated 6 Aug</p> <p>Received 7 Aug.</p>	<p>Disembarkation of five news from President Warfield</p>	
<p>Last Paper.</p> <p>EY127</p>	<p>(Minutes.)</p> <p>I.I.P. distribution</p> <p>8/8</p>	
<p>References.</p>		
<p>(Print.)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of.)</p> <p>8) 11P 9 Aug</p>		
<p>(Action completed.)</p> <p>25/8</p>	<p>(Index.)</p> <p>upt</p>	
<p>Next Paper.</p>		

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Cypher/OTP.

*ilpec*  
*Eyib5*  
DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

149  
= 7 AUG 1947

7 AUG 1947

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Kay.  
No. 126.

D. 7.03 p.m. 6th August 1947.

6th August 1947.

R. 9.45 p.m. 6th August 1947.

Repeated to Paris.

W:W:W:W:W

IMMEDIATE.

SECRET.

Illegal Jewish immigration.

My telegram No.125.

Five Jews disembarked today. Atmosphere  
calm.

"Runnymede Park" is coaling at Marseilles  
today; "Empire Rival" coaling tomorrow.

Your telegram No.113. */ E7016/48/31.* No further doctors  
are required.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat.]

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Cypher/OTP.

150  
DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Kay.  
No. 125.

D. 6.05 p.m. 5th August, 1947.  
R. 10.40 p.m. 5th August, 1947.

5th August, 1947.

Repeated to Paris.

IMMEDIATE.

SECRET.

Illegal Jewish immigration.

My telegram 124.

<sup>19</sup>  
~~As a result~~ Jews are expected to [grpsundec. ?  
disembark today] subject to weather conditions.

2. There is no (repeat no) truth in the report of an outbreak of dysentery on board but there are some cases of diarrhoea.

3. Press representatives including four Jewish journalists visited transports today. They are believed to have been impressed by the good relations existing on board. They are authorised to admit press photographers as well.

4. It has become essential for "Runnymede Park" to bunker without further delay and we are bringing her to Marseilles for the purpose on August 6th (Foreign Office telegram 110 refers).

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat]

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Reference:-

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194  
345  
31  
Palestine

EY166 /G

-7 AUG 1947

EY166/48/G

Mr Ward

Rome

Mr Beith

AVO/GP/9

Dated 24 July  
Received 7 Aug.

Question of granting visas to  
persons known to be engaged  
in organisation of illegal  
immigration. 151

Last Paper.

EY165

References.

See VR 94357

(Print.)

How disposed of.)

8) C.D.

M.I.5

Cab on

Aug/9.

4) H. F. Fitzgerald

C.D.

from H. Beith

15/12/47

8) H. Scher H.I.5

16. Sept.

(Action  
completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

(Minutes.)

Copies: C.O. (Mr. Higham)

M.I.5 (Mr. Scher)

Cabinet Office (Mr. W. Llewellyn) R.N.

and re-submit with p.p.  
referred to in paras. 7 and 10  
of this letter.

8/8

Action on this paper has been held  
up while the p.p. were obtained.  
Provided that M.I.5 can provide  
a full list of seamen, or at least of officers,  
who have manned illegal immigrant ships,  
I see no reason why the suggestion  
in para. 7 should not be adopted.  
We have taken far more drastic action  
than this in the past. We have a perfect  
right to decide which individuals we  
are willing to admit to British territory  
and, in this case, would merely be  
discriminating against persons proved to  
have violated the laws of a British  
territory. A circular instruction to Visa  
Officers would, in any case, be a confidential  
document

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FO

371

61820

152 document. I do not, therefore, see why we should object to the issue of a formal instruction to all Visa Officers to refuse British visas to a number of named persons known to have committed serious offences against Palestinian law.

As I have been unable to trace the telegram referred to in para. 10 of this letter, but I agree that we should follow up the Italian offer.

*J. E. Cable*  
(J. E. CABLE)  
4/9

This is rather a complicated question which has already come up at the Official Committee on Illegal Immigration (see section 4(c) of the meeting of August 22nd). I would summarize as follows the action which we might most usefully take:-

- (a) We should ask M.I.5. to supply us with an up to date "black-list" of the principal Agents and Masters engaged in the illegal immigration traffic. This would form the basis for a circular to Visa Officers and could also be communicated by His Majesty's Missions to the Governments concerned (amongst others the United States and Italian Governments as suggested by Official Committee - the Greek Government have already received representations from us about instituting a "black-list"). People on this list would be refused Visas for British territory.
- (b) Visa Officers should be given discretion to take any suitable action available to impede the movements of people who have been connected with the traffic. This would cover a great number of lesser fry like seamen. I agree with the Passport Control Department that we could not penalise seamen for having been at one time connected with a ship which later indulged in illegal immigration. On the other hand I think we should be justified in making things difficult for seamen who manned an illegal immigrant ship during her voyage of delivery i.e. immediately prior to her use in the traffic. The Visa Officers would require certain discretion in this matter.
- (c) In the circular to Visa Officers we could take up the suggestion made in paragraph 10 of Mr. Ward's letter and ask our people to keep in touch with their Italian colleagues with a view to preventing the entry into Italy of suspect persons.

We/

Off. Mr. T. G. Ward,  
Recd. from  
Mr. Beith Sept. 23.  
P. P. Dept. (Mr. Beck)  
Cabinet Office (Mr. Lush)  
CO (Mr. Higham)  
His (Mr. Selous)  
Sept. 24.

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61820

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153

We should also take up paragraph 11 with the Colonial Office. The Government of Palestine seemed to have been either feeble or stupid in the case mentioned.

I should be grateful to learn whether the Passport Control Department would agree to send out a circular on the above lines, as recommended by Rome and endorsed by Eastern Department.

P.C. Dept. Print

*J.G.S. Beith*  
J.G.S. Beith.  
8th September 1947.

We could certainly issue a circular to Passport Control officers and Consuls as suggested above.

I think the best line would be to say that all applications for visas made by persons connected with this business should be referred home for decision, with all available information about ~~the~~ <sup>each</sup> individuals.

This should act as a deterrent. We have already, at the request of the Home Office, instructed Athens to refer home for decision all applications for visas made by Greek masters or seamen desiring to travel to the U.K. to join their ships. (see F.O. telegram No. 1295 to Athens.)

You perhaps know of the proposal to abolish visas for Italians travelling to the U.K.

This will, I fear, much weaken our hands in cases of this kind.

L.M.I.S

W. Jeffers. 11/9/47

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61820

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*Minutes.*

Minutes.

154 M.I. 5 are compiling a black list, consisting of suspect individuals in the following three categories:

- (a) ship-owners
- (b) organizers
- (c) masters and certain members of ships' crews.

The intention is to incorporate this in the Home Office suspect list which, I understand, is already circulated to Passport Control Officers abroad.

I submit a ~~letter~~ draft  
to Mr. Fitzgerald on the lines  
suggested in the penultimate para.  
of Mr. Beith's minute.

Shanks.

Please draft a/c to Rome.

*J. E. Cabrer*  
(J. E. CABRER)  
12/7

Buy out 1st

10. Sept. 12

I submit draft letter to Mr. Ward.

*J. E. Cable*  
(J. E. CABLE)  
18/9

P.C. ✓ <sup>with draft</sup>  
a/a

Th. S. Beard  
Sept. 18

I take it that this  
will now go forward in  
consultation with you?

When MIS have completed their lists of names - the H.O. will circulate them to all Mung. Officers & at the same time let us have a supply of the circulars for distribution to P.C.'s & Campbells

Back 19/9

Draft sent  
Bn. Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>  
JB Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>

**NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.**

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Reference:- FO 371 / 61820

SECRET.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
ROME.

No. AVO/GP/9.

24th July, 1947.

Enter  
155  
FY166

Dear Beith,

Our Visa Officer has been corresponding with the Director of Passport Control and the Commissioner of Migration about the question of granting visas to persons known to be engaged in the organisation of illegal immigration to Palestine.

2. We understand that the Cabinet Committee are in favour of maximum obstruction of the plans of such organisers, and it seems obvious that the control we have here over the granting of visas to the United Kingdom, Palestine, Egypt and - to a certain extent - Austria, can be used with telling effect to cause delay and trouble to the huge and complicated organisation which is collecting refugees in Central Europe, moving them through Italy to the coast at prescribed times and arranging for their clandestine embarkation.

3. There are the following ways in which obstructions can be effectively used, and as you will see such tactics are already proving their worth.

4. The most vulnerable targets are the Italian ship-owners and shipping agents, Jewish or otherwise, who allow their ships and facilities to be used for the illegal traffic. These men often stand to lose heavily if their normal business visits to Egypt and the United Kingdom are obstructed. Even more than this, the feeling that they are "black-listed" by His Majesty's Government is a very uncomfortable one. The lessons of the war-time navicert system have not been forgotten, and every shipper knows that "black-listing" connotes, at the very least, all kinds of awkward and annoying complications.

5. Achille LAURO, a ship-owner who was responsible for fitting out several illegal immigration vessels at Porto Venere, was recently told, without explanation, that his application for a United Kingdom visa would have to be referred to London. It is well known that such a step is unusual in the case of business visits, and LAURO at once realised that he had been "black-listed". He has now written to H.M. Embassy admitting that certain operations carried out at his yards may have been "displeasing" to the Embassy and offering to see that in future no such operations are undertaken. The withholding of the visa may not have been a great hardship in itself, but it served as a convenient way of warning LAURO that he was in disfavour. What prompted his attempt to whitewash himself was undoubtedly the far wider implications which "black-listing" conjured in his mind.

6. Another ship-owner, BONNINO of GENOA, has made a confidential approach to a British acquaintance with an offer to declare all he knows about illegal immigration shipping provided his name is taken off the "black-list". His statement will be of particular interest, since there is at present no trace on the available records of his connection with this traffic.

7./

J.G.S. Beith, Esq.,  
Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office,  
Whitehall,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371 / 61820

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2.

7. In these circumstances it seems to me rather a pity that more consideration was not given to a suggestion by H.M. Consul-General at Genoa, which was forwarded to the Director of Passport Control by the Visa Officer (his letter AVO/GP/9 of 5.6.47). The idea was that visas for all British territory should be systematically refused to officers and seamen whose papers showed that they had served on vessels engaged in the illegal traffic. It was pointed out that if this were done, the organisers of the traffic would soon find difficulties in signing on crews, since seamen would be afraid of finding difficulties at British ports even after they had rejoined ships engaged in normal traffic.

The Director of Passport Control's reply was to the effect that it was not a policy which could be formally laid down. I can imagine that there are administrative difficulties, but is it not a pity to reject this weapon? Surely in a matter which is of such importance at the present time a general rule could be made that any persons connected with illegal immigration shipping should be systematically hampered in every way open to us under the visa machinery? If it is decided that visas cannot be refused in certain cases (e.g. seamen working in "legal" ships after having previously worked in illegal ones) then surely a definite delay should occur before the visa is granted, sufficient to make the seaman realise that he has been "black-listed". This is necessary if the legend of the "black-list" is to be maintained.

8. So much for the shipping side of the question. As regards the landward organisers, these are mostly Palestinians with a few Italian Jews among them. The Palestinians require visas for the United Kingdom and, when they wish to travel to Palestine by the normal route, transit visas for Egypt. The Italians of course require visas for the United Kingdom, Palestine and Egypt. The issue of all these visas is controlled by the Visa Department and it is the local rule to refer the applications of persons known to be involved in illegal immigration. This system is working well. (Our control of Egyptian transit visas for Palestinians will presumably cease shortly with the assumption by the Egyptian Government of their diplomatic functions in this country, but it can be expected that their representative will not be over-generous in the issue of visas to Palestine nationals.)

9. Another field of obstructive tactics is the small stream of Palestinian nationals who are travelling from Palestine through Italy to Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Germany. Some of these travellers are no doubt innocuous enough, merely wishing to visit families from which they have been separated by the war; but others are undoubtedly organisers of illegal immigration. As protected British subjects, they must apply for entry or transit permits for Austria either to the military authorities in Palestine or to this Embassy. It has already thus been possible to hold up suspected persons on several occasions and in extreme cases prevent their entry to Austria.

10. There is also the category of persons who wish to travel to Italy from the Levant. These include organisers, the crews of impounded illegal immigration vessels, doctors, navigators, etc. besides members of terrorist organisations. Many of the persons

mentioned/

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3.

mentioned in this and the preceding paragraphs are aware that their names are known in Palestine and travel to Syria or Lebanon in order to apply for their Italian visas. The Visa Officer mentioned this traffic recently to Dr. Migliore, the Head of Public Safety and General Affairs Division at the Ministry of the Interior, who offered to see that Italian Consuls in the Levant were instructed to keep in touch with their British colleagues and to refuse visas to any persons known to the British as involved in illegal immigration or Jewish terrorism. This is an offer which I suggest is very well worth following up. The Visa Officer has asked his colleague in Jerusalem to see if action can be taken to keep H.M. Consuls in Beirut and Damascus fully informed of the names of suspect persons. (His telegram No: 126 repeated to London and Mideast, dated 23rd June refers). Could you not lend Foreign Office support in an official circular?

11. I hear that several Italian Jews known to be heavily involved in illegal immigration have recently applied for "traveller's" visas for Palestine, and in two cases at least - Leone CARPI and Ettore BASSAN - the Palestine Government has authorised the grant of the visas. The activities of these men must be well known to the Palestine Defence Security Officer and there may well be special grounds for allowing them to travel to Palestine; but I agree with the policy of the Visa Officer which is to refer such cases back to Palestine in spite of the official authorisation. It serves two purposes - to ensure that the Commissioner of Migration is aware of the adverse record of the men in question, and to bring home to these men, even if they subsequently obtain their visas, the fact that they are "black-listed".

12. To sum up, we have a formidable weapon which is already being used to hinder the free travel of suspected persons and to warn them that their activities are known. If, as seems possible, the diplomatic and naval action we are taking against illegal shipping is beginning to turn the scale against the organisers of the traffic, we may find that the "black-list" legend - without any need on our side to declare publicly that such a list exists - will have an increasing and cumulative effect. So may we hope that you will back us at your end in getting authority for a tough use of the visa weapon?

Yours ever  
JG Ward

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Registry  
No. E 7166/48/G J.E.C.

OUT FILE.

*Draft.*

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Confidential.  
~~Restricted.~~  
~~Open.~~

TO <sup>EN</sup> Mr. Fitzgerald C.O.

from  
Mr. Beith

body to:

Mr. Schen N.I.S

In Ward's letter of no.  
AVO/GP/4 of 24<sup>th</sup> July to me  
(of which a copy went to  
Higham) about the use of the  
"visa weapon" against the organizers  
of Jewish illegal immigration,  
he mentions, in his paragraph "  
that two Italian Jews known  
to be heavily involved in  
the traffic were granted visas  
by the Palestine authorities.  
On the face of it,

2. On the face of it,  
this action appears rather surprising  
and we should be glad to  
know whether there are some special  
reasons

13m

September 15th. 158

$\times 1 \text{ cp/sec}$

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JB Sept. 12



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FOREIGN OFFICE, S. W. 1.

15th September, 1947. 160

(E 7166/48/G)  
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*My dear Fitzgerald*

In Ward's letter No. AVS/GP/9 of the 24th July to me (of which a copy went to Higham) about the use of the "visa weapon" against the organizers of Jewish illegal immigration, he mentions, in his paragraph 11, that two Italian Jews known to be heavily involved in the traffic were granted visas by the Palestine authorities.

2. On the face of it, this action appears rather surprising and we should be glad to know whether there were some special reasons for admitting these men to Palestine. It would be illogical if we were to refuse visas for the United Kingdom in such circumstances, as suggested by the Illegal Immigration Committee at their 14th meeting on the 22nd August, while they continued to be granted by the Government of Palestine.

3. I am sending a copy of this letter to Scherr.

*Yours sincerely*  
*John Beith*  
(J. G. S. Beith)

E. A. Fitzgerald, Esq.,  
Colonial Office.

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Registry  
No. E7166/48/G  
J.E.C.

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To  
Mr. J.C. WARD  
H.M. Embassy  
Rome

from  
Mr. Beith

Copies to:  
P.C. Dept (Mr. Burt)  
Mr. Evelyn (Cabinet Office)  
Mr. Higham (C.O.)  
Mr. Latham (H.I.S.)  
P.C. Dept 19/9  
not

JB Sept. 18

OUT FILE.

22-  
September 23rd 1961

x 4 cp/se

Dear Ward,

I am sorry that I have not been able to reply to your letter no. AVO/GP/4 of the 24th July, in which you suggested various ways in which the denial of visas might be employed in order to <sup>embarrass</sup> ~~discourage~~ the organizers of Jewish illegal immigration to Palestine.

2. Your suggestions have been discussed with the competent Departments here and the following course of action has been decided on. A "black list" <sup>is</sup> ~~will~~ be compiled consisting of suspect individuals in the following categories:

- (a) ship-owners
- (b) organizers
- (c) masters or key members of ships' crews.

This list will be incorporated in the Home Office suspect list, which is already circulated to all

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(6) all passport control officers and consuls authorized to issue visas. This will ensure that the suspect individuals any application for a British visa by an individual on the suspect list will either be refused or be referred home for decision. Passport Control officers will also be instructed to refer home in any doubtful case which might be connected with Jewish illegal immigration.

the "Black List" will have the further advantage of providing a check on suspect persons whose nationality exempts them from the need to obtain a British visa, as the Home Office suspect list is also held by all immigration officers at U.K. ports.

3. We have been unable to trace <sup>your</sup> Visa Officer's Telegram no. 126 referred to in para. 10 of your letter. ~~Will you please~~ send us a copy <sup>if it is important for us to have it?</sup>

4. We have taken up with the C.O. the case mentioned in para. 11 of your letter, where the Govt. of Palestine authorized the grant of

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if you have  
not done so  
already,

of visas to two strongly<sup>163</sup>  
suspect Italian Jews, and  
~~will let you know as  
soon as we receive a  
reply.~~

4. We have already  
asked the Embassy at  
Athens to cooperate with  
the Greek Govt. in  
preparing a "Black List"  
for use by the latter,  
since the Greeks have  
agreed to <sup>travel</sup> deny facilities  
to people on such a  
list. You might consider  
whether you could take  
similar action with the  
Italian authorities.

JB Sept. 19

Yours ever John Bell.

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OUT FILE.

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S. W. 1.

23rd September, 1947.

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*Dear Ward,*

I am sorry that I have not been able to reply before to your letter No. AVO/GP/9 of the 24th July, in which you suggested various ways in which the denial of visas might be employed in order to embarrass the organizers of Jewish illegal immigration to Palestine.

2. Your suggestions have been discussed with the competent departments here and the following course of action has been decided on. A "black list" is being compiled consisting of suspect individuals in the following categories:

- (a) ship-owners
- (b) organizers
- (c) masters or key members of ships' crews.

This list will be incorporated in the Home Office suspect list, which is already circulated to all passport control officers and Consuls authorized to issue visas. This will ensure that any application for a British visa by an individual on the suspect list will either be refused or else referred home for decision. Passport Control officers will also be instructed to refer home in any doubtful case which might be connected with Jewish illegal immigration. The "Black list" will have the further advantage of providing a check on suspect persons whose nationality exempts them from the need to obtain a British visa, as the Home Office suspect list is also held by all immigration officers at United Kingdom ports.

3. We have been unable to trace your Visa Officer's telegram No. 126 referred to in paragraph 10 of your letter. Will you send us a copy if it is important for us to have it?

4. We have taken up with the Colonial Office the case mentioned in paragraph 11 of your letter, where the Government of Palestine authorized the grant of visas to two strongly suspect Italian Jews.

5. We have already asked the Embassy at Athens to cooperate with the Greek Government in preparing a "Black List" for use by the latter, since the Greeks have agreed to deny travel facilities to people on such a list. You might, if you have not done so already, consider whether you could take similar action with the Italian authorities.

*Yours ever*

*John Beith.*

(J. G. S. Beith)

J. G. Ward, Esq., C.M.G.,  
Rome.

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SECRET

13 Oct 1947 E

E7166/100

Colonial Office,  
Church House,  
Great Smith Street,  
London, S.W. 1.

October 9, 1947.

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END

My dear Beith,

Thank you for your letter E.7166/48/G  
of September 15 about two Italian Jews who  
were granted visas for Palestine.

We have asked the Palestine Government  
for a report on these two persons and will let  
you know as soon as it is received.

I am sorry for the delay in answering  
your letter.

Yours sincerely  
*E.N. Fitzgerald*

(E.N. Fitzgerald)

J.G.S. BEITH, ESQ.

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